

THE AMERICAN Legion

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The magazine for a strong America

www.legion.org



"This flag,
which we honor
and under which we serve,
is the emblem of our unity,
our power, our thought
and purpose as a nation.

It has no other character
than that which we give it
from generation to generation."

Woodrow Wilson, 1917

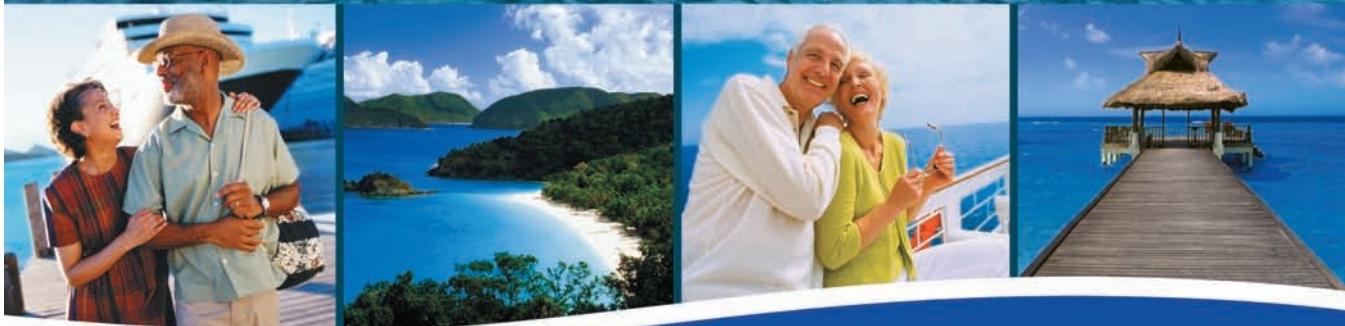
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Woodrow Wilson believed the importance of the flag for future generations is determined by our reverence for it today.

Photodisc

The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.7 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 15,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.

"No state shall ... deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law."

14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

The Supreme Court's 5-4 decision in *Kelo v. City of New London* spurred rebellion among property-rights champions. **Page 18**





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Bud Coady

Harvard, 1979
USMC, 1979-89, 1991
Gulf War Veteran
Attorney at Law

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Andy Goodwin

'Disabled and Denied'

Congratulations to Steve Brooks for acknowledging the inequities cast upon disabled veterans in their attempts to secure adequate disability compensation (April).

When a servicemember is physically or mentally wounded through no fault of his own, it is incumbent upon the Department of Defense to willingly produce some form of disability benefit and to show compassion in compensating the member for the government-accepted liability.

Why DoD, through the Physical Evaluation Board (PEB), acts like a court board – adversarially, to deny ownership or responsibility to the member in maintaining his or her quality-of-life issues – is a mystery.

The article helps us to reason and understand why this form of injustice has been accepted for so many years. It is my opinion that career paths have been created on denying disability benefits while knowing that disabled members are reluctant to question the disability severance/retirement system.

Let's push the Veterans Disability Benefits Commission, found online at www.vetscommission.org, to rectify the Chapter 61, Title 10 statutes that prevent disabled servicemembers from receiving a just or earned benefit when they become disabled through no fault of their own.

– Len Deemer, Aurora, Colo.

Kudos for the article regarding Congress giving the shaft to veterans who were not able to complete 20 years of service due to early retirement because of disability. Earned retirement pay is just that – earned – while disability compensation was intended to compensate for pain and suffering, loss of earning potential and adverse impact on lifestyle endured by disabled veterans. Full concurrent receipt of pay, regardless of years served, is the right thing to do. I hope every member of the Legion, along with family and friends, will contact their elected representatives and demand that this wrong be righted.

– Floyd R. Burchett,
Battle Ground, Ind.

Your article "Insult to Injury" hit me right between the eyes. Those of us Chapter 61 retirees with fewer than 20 years of ser-

vice are at the bottom of a disturbing class system that is growing every day because of the combat wounds suffered in Iraq and Afghanistan. I wonder if the young soldiers know what's in store for them if they are wounded, retired under Chapter 61 and left to survive on a single pension that leaves them physically disabled and struggling in poverty for the rest of their lives. How many would enlist? Some changes have to take place to care for those who carried the burden of combat on their shoulders, instead of the lobbyists and corporations that get filthy rich off us.

– P.K. Barnes, Canisteo, N.Y.

'Anatomy of an Aircraft Carrier'

Reading this article brought back many memories of my service aboard the USS *Constellation* (CVA-64) in the Tonkin Gulf off Vietnam from 1967 to 1969

(April). However, Matt Grills left out one colored shirt that always stands out on the flight deck: white with a red cross. All flight operations are required to have a hospital corpsman and a battle dressing station manned. Few in numbers, but great in saving life and limb.

– John Zeig, Dell Rapids, S.D.

'Untapped Depths'

While I agree with many of Milton Copulos' points and applaud him for bringing them to our attention (April), I strongly disagree with his conclusion that further destroying the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and further polluting our shorelines with offshore oil and gas rigs is the way this country should go. Instead, I would offer the observation that weaning this country from all oil, not just foreign oil, is a much better approach and will yield benefits for us as well as the rapidly deteriorating environment. Wind power, solar power, electric vehicles (hybrids are a good start but only a baby step), biomass-based fuels, even nuclear power – all of these need to be actively and aggressively pursued, preferably with the money government will spend on all other fossil fuel-based methodologies it keeps trumpeting as the solution to our energy woes.

I know the technology is sitting on the shelf waiting to be used. Why we don't pursue it is totally beyond me.

– Tom Bohon, Olympia, Wash.

Why aren't these untapped energy resources being used? The obvious answer is that everyone in power – including, and especially, the news media – has yielded the field to the enviro-nazis. As a veteran, I know what it means to fight for something, and unfortunately very few of our leaders and

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for a stomach ulcer.**

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concerned?**



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If you are over 60 or have had a previous stomach ulcer, continuous use of these medications puts you at risk for a stomach ulcer.

While these medications may be effective in providing pain relief, they can weaken the stomach lining, allowing stomach acid to cause an ulcer. Not all stomach ulcers cause symptoms, so talk to your doctor to see if you might be at risk for this problem.

If you're concerned about risk of a stomach ulcer caused by continuous use of your pain medication, ask your doctor about prescription NEXIUM. When taken daily, NEXIUM has been proven to help reduce the risk of stomach ulcers associated with certain pain medications. NEXIUM is not a pain medication. Your results may vary.

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NEXIUM® (esomeprazole magnesium)

20-mg, 40-mg Delayed-Release Capsules

BRIEF SUMMARY Before prescribing NEXIUM, please see full Prescribing Information. **INDICATIONS AND USAGE** NEXIUM is indicated for the short-term treatment (4 to 8 weeks) in the healing and symptomatic resolution of diagnostically confirmed erosive esophagitis; the maintenance of symptom resolution and healing of erosive esophagitis (controlled studies do not extend beyond 6 months); and for the treatment of heartburn and other symptoms associated with GERD; and for risk reduction of NSAID-associated gastric ulcer. **CONTRAINDICATIONS** NEXIUM is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to any component of the formulation or to substituted benzimidazoles. **PRECAUTIONS** Symptomatic response to therapy with NEXIUM does not preclude the presence of gastric malignancy. Atrophic gastritis has been noted occasionally in gastric corpus biopsies from patients treated long-term with omeprazole, which is a prodrug. **Information for Patients** NEXIUM Delayed-Release Capsules should be swallowed whole and taken at least one hour before meals. For patients who have difficulty swallowing capsules, one tablespoon of applesauce can be added to an empty bowl and the NEXIUM Delayed-Release Capsule can be opened, and the pellets carefully emptied onto the applesauce. The pellets should be mixed with the applesauce and then swallowed immediately. The applesauce used should not be hot and should be soft enough to be swallowed without chewing. The pellets should not be chewed or crushed. The pellet/applesauce mixture should not be stored for future use. Antacids may be used while taking NEXIUM. **Drug Interactions:** Esomeprazole is extensively metabolized in the liver by CYP2C19 and CYP3A4. *In vitro* and *in vivo* studies have shown that esomeprazole is not likely to inhibit CYPs 1A2, 2A6, 2C9, 2D6, 2E1 and 3A4. No clinically relevant interactions with drugs metabolized by these CYP enzymes would be expected. Drug interaction studies have shown that esomeprazole does not have any clinically significant interactions with phenytoin, warfarin, quinidine, clarithromycin or amoxicillin. Post-marketing reports of changes in prothrombin measures have been received among patients on concomitant warfarin and esomeprazole therapy. Increases in INR and prothrombin time may lead to abnormal bleeding and even death. Patients treated with proton pump inhibitors and warfarin concomitantly may need to be monitored for increases in INR and prothrombin time. Esomeprazole may potentially interfere with CYP2C19, the major esomeprazole metabolizing enzyme. Coadministration of esomeprazole 30 mg and diazepam, a CYP2C19 substrate, resulted in a 45% decrease in clearance of diazepam. Increased plasma levels of diazepam were observed 12 hours after dosing and onwards. However, at that time, the plasma levels of diazepam were below the therapeutic interval, and thus this interaction is unlikely to be of clinical relevance. Coadministration of oral contraceptives, diazepam, phenytoin, or quinidine did not seem to change the pharmacokinetic profile of esomeprazole. Studies evaluating coadministration of esomeprazole and either naproxen (non-selective NSAID) or rofecoxib (COX-2 selective NSAID) did not identify any clinically relevant changes in the pharmacokinetic profiles of esomeprazole or these NSAIDs. Esomeprazole inhibits gastric acid secretion. Therefore, esomeprazole may interfere with the absorption of drugs where gastric pH is an important determinant of bioavailability (e.g., ketoconazole, iron salts and digoxin). **Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility** The carcinogenic potential of esomeprazole was assessed using omeprazole studies. In two 24-month oral carcinogenicity studies in rats, omeprazole at daily doses of 1.7, 3.4, 13.8, 44.0 and 140.8 mg/kg/day (about 0.7 to 57 times the human dose of 20 mg/day expressed on a body surface area basis) produced gastric ECL cell carcinomas in a dose-related manner in both male and female rats; the incidence of this effect was markedly higher in female rats, which had higher blood levels of omeprazole. Gastric carcinoids seldom occur in the untreated rat. In addition, ECL cell hyperplasia was present in all treated groups of both sexes. In one of these studies, female rats were treated with 13.8 mg omeprazole/kg/day (about 5.6 times the human dose on a body surface area basis) for 1 year, then followed for an additional year without the drug. No carcinoids were seen in these rats. An increased incidence of treatment-related ECL cell hyperplasia was observed at the end of 1 year (94% treated vs 10% controls). By the second year the difference between treated and control rats was much smaller (46% vs 26%) but still showed more hyperplasia in the treated group. Gastric adenocarcinoma was seen in one rat (2%). No similar tumor was seen in male or female rats treated for 2 years. For this strain of rat no similar tumor has been noted historically, but a finding involving only one tumor is difficult to interpret. A 78-week mouse carcinogenicity study of omeprazole did not show increased tumor occurrence, but the study was not conclusive. Esomeprazole was negative in the Ames mutation test, in the *in vitro* rat bone marrow cell chromosome aberration test, and the *in vivo* mouse micronucleus test. Esomeprazole, however, was positive in the *in vitro* human lymphocyte chromosome aberration test, the *in vivo* mouse bone marrow cell chromosome aberration test, and the *in vivo* mouse micronucleus test. The potential effects of esomeprazole on fertility and reproductive performance were assessed using omeprazole studies. Omeprazole at oral doses up to 138 mg/kg/day in rats (about 56 times the human dose on a body surface area basis) was found to have no effect on reproductive performance of parental animals. **Pregnancy Teratogenic Effects:** *Pregnancy Category B* Teratology studies have been performed in rats at oral doses up to 280 mg/kg/day (about 57 times the human dose on a body surface area basis) and in rabbits at oral doses up to 86 mg/kg/day (about 35 times the human dose on a body surface area basis) and have revealed no evidence of impaired fertility or harm to the fetus due to esomeprazole. There are, however, no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, this drug should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed. Teratology studies conducted with omeprazole in rats at oral doses up to 138 mg/kg/day (about 56 times the human dose on a body surface area basis) and in rabbits at doses up to 69 mg/kg/day (about 56 times the human dose on a body surface area basis) did not disclose any evidence for a teratogenic potential of omeprazole. In rabbits, omeprazole in a dose range of 6.9 to 69.1 mg/kg/day (about 5.5 to 56 times the human dose on a body surface area basis) produced dose-related increases in embryo-lethality, fetal resorptions, and pregnancy disruptions. In rats, dose-related embryo/fetal toxicity and postnatal developmental toxicity were observed in offspring resulting from parents treated at 13.8 to 138.0 mg/kg/day (about 5.6 to 56 times the human doses on a body surface area basis). There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Sporadic reports have been received of congenital abnormalities occurring in infants born to women who have received omeprazole during pregnancy. **Nursing Mothers** The excretion of esomeprazole in milk has not been studied. However, omeprazole concentrations have been measured in breast milk of a woman following oral administration of 20 mg. Because esomeprazole is likely to be excreted in human milk, because of the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants from esomeprazole, and because of the potential for tumorigenicity shown for omeprazole in rat carcinogenicity studies, a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or to discontinue the drug, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother. **Pediatric Use** Safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients have not been established. **Geriatric Use** Of the total number of patients who received NEXIUM in clinical trials, 1459 were 65 to 74 years of age and 354 patients were ≥75 years of age. No overall differences in safety and efficacy were observed between the elderly and younger individuals, and other reported clinical experience has not identified differences in responses between the elderly and younger patients, but greater sensitivity of some older individuals cannot be ruled out. **ADVERSE REACTIONS** The safety of NEXIUM was evaluated in over 15,000 patients (aged 18–84 years) in clinical trials worldwide including over 8,500 patients in the United States and over 6,500 patients in Europe and Canada. Over 2,900 patients were treated in long-term studies for up to 6–12 months. In general, NEXIUM was well tolerated in both short- and long-term clinical trials. The safety in the treatment of healing of erosive esophagitis was assessed in four randomized comparative clinical trials, which included 1,240 patients on NEXIUM 20 mg, 2,434 patients on NEXIUM 40 mg, and 3,008 patients on omeprazole 20 mg daily. The most frequently occurring adverse events (≥1%) in all three groups was headache (5.5, 5.0, and 3.8, respectively) and diarrhea (no difference among the three groups). Nausea, flatulence, abdominal pain, constipation, and dry mouth occurred at similar rates among patients taking NEXIUM or omeprazole. Additional adverse events that were reported as possibly or probably related to NEXIUM with an incidence <1% are listed below by body system: **Body as a Whole:** abdomen enlarged, allergic reaction, asthenia, back pain, chest pain, chest pain substernal, facial edema, peripheral edema, hot flushes, fatigue, fever, flu-like disorder, generalized edema, leg edema, malaise, pain, rigors. **Cardiovascular:** flushing, hypertension, tachycardia; **Endocrine:** goiter; **Gastrointestinal:** bowel irregularity, constipation aggravated, dyspepsia, dysphagia, dysplasia GI, epigastric pain, eructation, esophageal disorder, frequent stools, gastritis/enteritis, GI hemorrhage, GI symptoms not otherwise specified, hiccup, melena, mouth disorder, pharynx disorder, rectal disorder, serum castrin increased, tongue disorder, tongue edema, ulcerative stomatitis, vomiting; **Hearing:** earache, tinnitus; **Hematologic:** anemia, anemia hypochromic, cervical lymphadenopathy, epistaxis, leukocytosis, leukopenia, thrombocytopenia; **Heaptic:** bilirubinemia, hepatic function abnormal, SGOT increased, SGPT increased; **Metabolic/Nutritional:** glycosuria, hyperuricemia, hyponatremia, increased alkaline phosphatase, thirst, vitamin B12 deficiency, weight increase, weight decrease; **Musculoskeletal:** arthralgia, arthritis aggravated, arthropathy, cramps, fibromyalgia syndrome, hernia, polymyalgia rheumatica; **Nervous System/Psychiatric:** anorexia, apathy, appetite increased, confusion, depression aggravated, dizziness, hypertension, nervousness, hypoesthesia, impotence, insomnia, migraine, migraine aggravated, paresthesia, sleep disorder, somnolence, tremor, vertigo, visual field defect; **Reproductive:** dysmenorrhea, menstrual disorder, vaginitis; **Respiratory:** asthma aggravated, coughing, dyspnea, larynx edema, pharyngitis, rhinitis, sinusitis; **Skin and Appendages:** acne, angioedema, dermatitis, pruritus, puritus ani, rash, rash erythematous, rash maculopapular, skin inflammation, sweating increased, urticaria; **Special Senses:** otitis media, parosmia, taste loss, taste perversion; **Urogenital:** abnormal urine, albuminuria, cystitis, dysuria, fungal infection, hematuria, micturition frequency, moniliasis, genital moniliasis, polyuria; **Visual:** conjunctivitis, vision abnormal. Endoscopic findings that were reported as adverse events include: duodenitis, esophagitis, esophageal stricture, esophageal ulceration, esophageal varices, gastric ulcer, gastritis, hernia, benign polyps or diverticula, Barrett's esophagus, and mucosal discoloration. Two placebo-controlled studies were conducted in 710 patients for the treatment of symptomatic gastroesophageal reflux disease. The most common adverse events that were reported as possibly or probably related to NEXIUM were diarrhea (4.3%), headache (3.8%), and abdominal pain (3.8%). Postmarketing Reports – There have been spontaneous reports of adverse events with postmarketing use of esomeprazole. These reports have included rare cases of anaphylactic reaction and myalgia, severe dermatologic reactions, including toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN, some fatal), Stevens-Johnson syndrome, and erythema multiforme, and periorbital and periorificial. Rarely, hepatitis with or without jaundice has been reported. Other adverse events not observed with NEXIUM, but occurring with omeprazole can be found in the omeprazole package insert; **ADVERSE REACTIONS** section. **OVERDOSAGE** A single oral dose of esomeprazole at 510 mg/kg (about 103 times the human dose on a body surface area basis), was lethal to rats. The major signs of acute toxicity were reduced motor activity, changes in respiratory frequency, tremor, ataxia, and intermittent clonic convulsions. There have been some reports of overdose with esomeprazole. Reports have been received of overdose with omeprazole in humans. Doses ranged up to 2,400 mg (120 times the usual recommended clinical dose). Manifestations were variable, but included confusion, drowsiness, blurred vision, tachycardia, nausea, diaphoresis, flushing, headache, dry mouth, and other adverse reactions similar to those seen in normal clinical experience (see omeprazole package insert-**ADVERSE REACTIONS**). No specific antidote for esomeprazole is known. Since esomeprazole is extensively protein bound, it is not expected to be removed by dialysis. In the event of overdosage, treatment should be symptomatic and supportive. As with the management of any overdose, the possibility of multiple drug ingestion should be considered. For current information on treatment of any drug overdose, a certified Regional Poison Control Center should be contacted. Telephone numbers are listed in the Physicians' Desk Reference (PDR) or local telephone book. **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION** Please see full Prescribing Information for recommended adult dosages and dosage adjustments for **Special Populations** for NEXIUM.

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vet voice

opinionmakers understand the concept.

— Dermot F. Wood, Flanders, N.J.

'Annie, Get Your Gun'

I am a National Rifle Association life member, law-abiding citizen, hunter and fisherman. As Charlton Heston says, "When they pry my gun from my cold, dead hands." I was outraged to hear the Supreme Court justices quote laws from foreign countries. If they want to quote and make decisions based on foreign laws, why don't they quote other laws, such as if a thief is caught his hands are cut off, or if he speaks against his country he is executed? I think Supreme Court justices should follow the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights, not some foreign country's rubbish. If they want to rule by foreign laws, they should move there. I'm sure most Americans will help contribute to the move.

— David Cooper, Martinsburg, W.Va.

The argument I hear defending the right to keep small arms in one's house is the need to protect the family against hostile intruders. The fact is that the number of homeowners who have successfully used their guns to repel housebreakers is so small that it's statistically insignificant. Instead, the victims of small-arms fire are friends and relatives. The overwhelming number of gun casualties occur among people who know each other. In most such cases, guns are fired accidentally, in anger or in drunkenness.

Is the very remote possibility of using the gun to protect your home worth the much greater risk of a friend or loved one being shot?

As to the constitutional

question, gun defenders quote the Second Amendment: "The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." They never quote the opening clause, the reason for the amendment: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a Free State."

Today we have the well-regulated militia in the form of the National Guard. And the members keep their militia weapons in the armory, not in their homes.

In early times, we often had no standing army, and certainly no National Guard, so citizens with muskets in their homes were a potential National Guard, as they were at Lexington and Concord. Today there's no way to reasonably suppose that guns in the home protect "the security of a Free State." Clearly the Second Amendment has outlived the purpose for which it was created.

— Fred Lollar, Chico, Calif.

'China's Hidden Gulags'

Thanks to Harry Wu for telling the world about the People's Republic of China's "laogai" system, or gulags (April).

More than 58,000 U.S. service-members died in Vietnam, fighting to stop the spread of communism in Southeast Asia. That was the Domino Theory; those countries would fall to communism like dominoes. I guess our leaders aren't worried about dominoes anymore. Why does the U.S. government do everything today to make communist China the new world power?

We have corporate CEOs today

who have one main concern: next month's profits. Communist China's main concern is what it will rule 100 years from now. President Eisenhower was right on with his warning about a political military-industrial complex. Much of what takes place in our great land today shows little regard for our nation's future.

Wu is right: "And even today, we do not engage with Cuba and North Korea. Why is China different? We cannot convince a tiger to become vegetarian."

— Leland G. Olson, Arlington, S.D.

U.S.-Mexico security fence

U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee's opposition argument shares a common and Pollyanna-ish viewpoint with the more liberal members of our nation (Big Issues, April). She cites lives lost among those attempting to illegally enter our country by taking increasingly more dangerous rural routes of entry. She says fences will cause an even greater loss of life because illegal entrants will not be able to use more innocuous urban points of entry.

First, why should we provide easier ways to illegally cross our borders? Second, why are the deaths of criminals breaking the law our social and moral responsibility, especially those who are not even U.S. citizens?

If we wish to be serious about deterring illegal immigration, we have to make it tough and dangerous to illegally enter this country. Coddling criminals by worrying about their well-being while they are breaking the law makes no sense at all.

— Joshua Nims, Waco, Texas

Our work force is filled with illegal immigrants, and the wage structure is lopsided because of their impact. Young men and women who are serving their country in Iraq and Afghanistan should not have to compete with anyone to earn a living wage. Nothing is cheaper here because of the low wages. The employers make higher profits; that's the simple reality of the situation.

I agree with Rep. Frank: "It is the duty of Congress to support every effective effort to protect the American people." Rep. Lee is apparently not thinking in the best interest of the American people or of the young people of her district who grew up here, got a high school diploma, went into the armed services and served.

It is bad enough that we outsource millions of jobs to favored nations, but do we have to destroy the hopes and dreams of the youth of our nation as they return home from war and attempt entry into our work force?

We are past the point of talk. It is time to close the borders and to give no qualification to illegals.

— John G. Mason, Naples, Fla.

7

'The Right Place'

Your article about the upcoming Salt Lake City convention is very good, but I would like to point out that Peter Corroon is mayor of Salt Lake County. Rocky Anderson is the mayor of Salt Lake City. Also, the Gateway Mall is west of Temple Square, not east.

— Richard Pollei, Holladay, Utah

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commander's message

Old Glory needs our help

The week of June 26, the U.S. Senate has the opportunity to correct a mistake made by the Supreme Court 17 years ago, a mistake that took from the American people a right they'd possessed for more than 200 years.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., pledged to The American Legion in March that he will bring the flag amendment, S.J. Res. 12, to the Senate floor for a vote that final week of June. His promise couldn't come at a better time. S.J. Res. 12 has 58 co-sponsors in the Senate. It is supported by at least 66 senators – just one vote short of what's needed to send it back to the states for ratification.

The amendment simply reads, "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States." It doesn't make flag desecration illegal. The amendment simply takes power over the flag from the Supreme Court, which ruled 5-4 in a 1989 decision that flag desecration is a form of free speech protected under the First Amendment, and returns it to the people. The amendment would have to be ratified by 38 states before becoming part of the Constitution. Polls commissioned by The American Legion and the Citizens Flag Alliance consistently show that 75 percent to 80 percent of Americans support protecting the flag.

Some oppose amending the Constitution. But we are not correcting the Constitution; we are correcting the Supreme Court's wrongful interpretation of it. Congress has an obligation to correct those mistakes, thus the existence of the amendment process. It took a constitutional amendment, for instance, in 1870 to make it impossible for U.S. citizens to be denied the right to vote on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude. In 1920, the 19th Amendment granted voting rights to women.

The Court got it wrong when its one-vote decision in *Texas v. Johnson* defined flag-burning as speech. The First Amendment clearly states, "Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech ..." As former baseball manager Tommy Lasorda said, speech is when you talk. Desecrating the flag is conduct, a type that has no business being protected.

As one of the original member organizations in the CFA, The American Legion has been at the forefront of the flag-amendment issue since 1989. Now, in these next two months, we need to lead once again. The Legion needs you to contact your senators. Thank those who have supported us all along and ask them to continue. Tell those opposed that we are not asking them to change their minds – just their vote. Ask our opponents to give the people a chance to decide whether Old Glory is worth protecting. There will be those who say they support a statute to protect the flag. Tell them that if they truly want to protect the flag, an amendment is the only way to do so.

Call your senators. Fax or e-mail them. Visit their district offices. Write letters. Persistence has kept the flag amendment an issue for 17 years. Two more months of even more persistence can restore a right that never should have been taken away from the American people.



Chase Studios

National Commander
Thomas L. Bock

MEMORANDA

SALUTE OUR HEROES: The American Legion and *The New York Times* Job Market head to Boston's Fenway Park on June 13 for the second "Salute Our Heroes: The Veterans Job Fair & Career Expo." The event, in collaboration with BostonWorks, starts at 1 p.m. This is the second in a series of similar events where veterans and the spouses of active-duty personnel are invited to meet and interview with up to 100 potential employers. Future events include Tampa, Fla., on July 11 and New York City on Nov. 6. Visit the Web site for more information and to register for the event.

[www.nytimes.com/
saluteourheroes](http://www.nytimes.com/saluteourheroes)

PENTAGON PODCASTS: The Pentagon Channel, DoD's video news service, recently added video podcasting to its line of products that distribute the channel's military news and information to the military and audiences around the world. For more information on video podcasting, or to view the Pentagon Channel streamed live, visit www.pentagonchannel.mil on the Web.

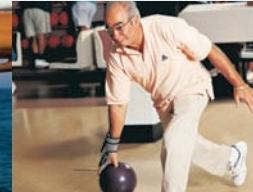


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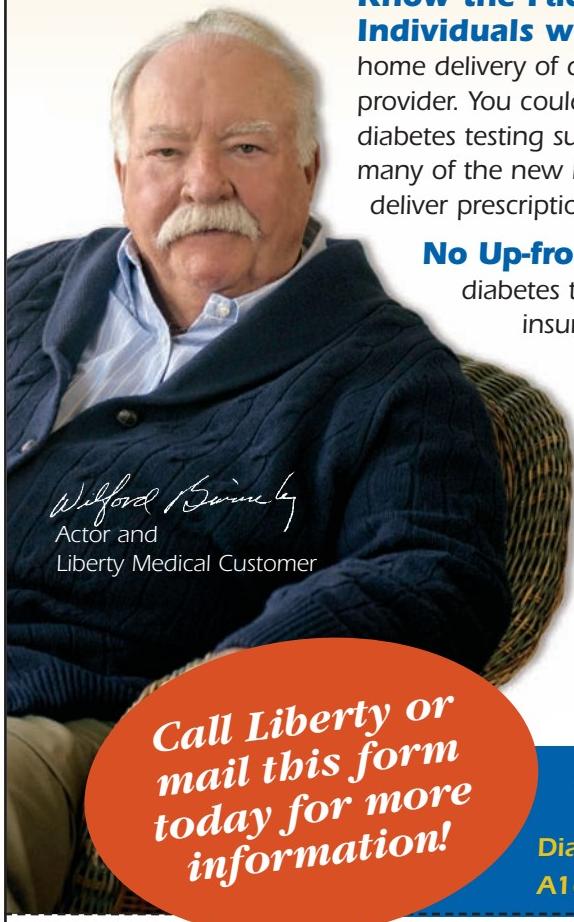
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NSA domestic-surveillance program



SUPPORT

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas

Cornyn is a member of the Armed Services Committee.

America is fighting a global war against an enemy who not only opposes our freedoms but our existence. That should be the starting point for any discussion of the president's legal authorities for the National Security Agency's (NSA) surveillance of al-Qaeda.

Just three days after the 9/11 attacks, Congress passed a joint resolution authorizing the president to use all necessary force against the responsible terrorist organizations. The resolution provides the president with authority to direct the NSA to conduct surveillance against al-Qaeda.

Some of the president's critics contend that when Congress, through its resolution, authorized the president to kill, capture or confine al-Qaeda terrorists, it somehow prevented him from intercepting al-Qaeda communications. But gathering critical battlefield intelligence against the enemy at which the resolution is directed is a fundamental incident of waging this war. Signals intelligence, which today includes the NSA's surveillance activities, has been a crucial part of military conflicts throughout U.S. history.

I have thoroughly examined the legal authorities governing the NSA program. This critical intelligence-gathering initiative is consistent with the terms of the congressional resolution and the directive it gave the president to wage war against al-Qaeda. It is misleading to characterize the NSA program as some sort of broad-based domestic spying on U.S. citizens. The program is narrowly focused. By targeting the international communications of al-Qaeda, our intelligence experts are better able to connect the dots in order to prevent another 9/11. The president has the authority – indeed, the responsibility – to execute this critical program that is keeping Americans safe.



OPPOSE

Rep. Dennis J. Kucinich, D-Ohio

Kucinich serves on the subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations.

The president's program of spying on Americans is illegal, unjustified, a gross abuse of executive authority and a danger to the basic rights of every American. Our Constitution is clear: Congress makes the laws and the president executes the laws. Congress did not authorize spying on Americans without a court's approval, and no one is above the law.

The government has a duty to protect the nation's citizens. It also has a responsibility to follow the

rule of law. Legal mechanisms exist for the government to seek wiretaps to gain information on individuals who may harm this country.

For more than 30 years, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) Court has provided the government legal authority to execute warrants to wiretap individuals who may seek to harm our nation. FISA takes into account the need for emergency surveillance. FISA allows wiretapping without a court order in an emergency; the court must simply be notified within 72 hours.

Four presidents – Carter, Reagan, George H.W. Bush and Clinton – used FISA to combat terrorism. Only one president, the current commander in chief, has subverted FISA.

The government has a constitutional duty to provide for the common defense, and it must do so while protecting the Constitution's guarantee against illegal search and seizure.

Benjamin Franklin once stated, "Any society that would give up a little liberty to gain a little security will deserve neither and lose both." Legal and legislative experts, along with members of Congress and senators from both sides of the aisle, agree: domestic spying, without a warrant, is an unnecessary, unconstitutional abuse of power by this administration.

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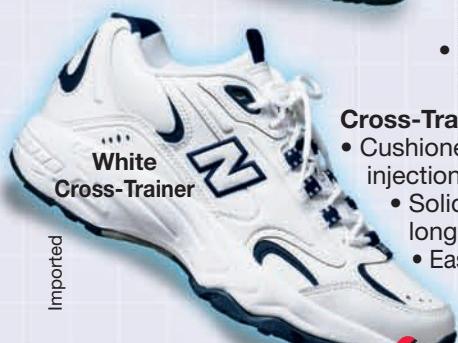


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When Heroes Come Home Hurt

As a growing number of severely wounded veterans restart their lives, the Legion, the Pentagon and local communities are duty-bound to reach out.

BY JAMES V. CARROLL

Dave Oman considers himself a lucky man. He has a loving wife and three children he adores. He is a hero in Milton-Freewater, Ore., a quiet agricultural town near the Washington border. Life, however, is anything but idyllic for the 35-year-old Walla Walla, Wash., native. In one breath, he will tell you, "Every day is a good day." In the next, "I should be dead."

Oman has struggled during the past two years to recover from life-altering injuries he received during a midnight enemy attack along a dangerous Baghdad road. He is missing an eye and

can't consistently keep his balance. He sustained third-degree burns, a broken nose and a shattered cheek. Shrapnel and burning fuel seared his right side from his ear to his hand. Emergency tracheotomies kept him alive on the battlefield. He has four titanium implants in his mouth and cheekbone, permanent reminders of his near-death encounter fighting in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

He also struggles to overcome emotional damage wrought from the Baghdad firefight, coping with a new fear of the dark so strong he couldn't go to the door to call his dog at night. His tremors have only recently subsided. Step by step, he's learning to live with post-traumatic stress disorder.

The former Army sergeant refuses to concede victory to his physical and emotional injuries. He continues to receive treatment at VA's Wainwright Memorial Medical Center in Walla Walla. His balance is improving, and he can drive a car once again. "It's about moving forward," he says.

The Firefight. It was business as usual when Oman left camp May 15, 2004, to patrol an area between his base of operations and another unit down the road – just another nighttime mission to sniff out improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and investigate suspicious activity along the route. Returning to home base for the night, the three-vehicle convoy received a heads-up that they might run into enemy insurgents. The drivers immediately spread out, initiating well-rehearsed combat tactics. Then all hell broke loose.

"We started taking fire," Oman recalls. "The enemy fired three RPGs in our direction. The first hit the front of our truck and blew in the windshield, knocked out the driver and injured our gunner. The second RPG entered the truck through the shattered windshield and hit a steel plate directly behind my head. The grenade fragmented but did not detonate. If it had

Former Army sergeant Dave Oman is putting his life back together after sustaining severe injuries in an enemy attack while on patrol in Baghdad in May 2004. "I should be dead," he says. *James V. Carroll*



detonated, I wouldn't be talking today." He remembers almost nothing between the firefight's first moments and awakening at Brooke Army Medical Center in Texas days later, Oman says.

As the wounded soldier lay unconscious, the enemy opened up with small-arms fire. Oman's gunner, despite having much of his arm torn apart, returned fire to buy his buddies time until the rest of the patrol joined up with them.

"I don't know if the first RPG knocked me unconscious or if my brain just shut down," Oman says. "But I'm probably alive today because my gunner, despite his injuries, kept the enemy from crossing the road and overrunning us. I was also lucky that a medic was with our patrol, and he took quick action."

The Call. As military doctors treated Oman's wounds, an unwelcome ringing awoke his wife, Deanna, from a fitful sleep at 4:30 a.m. back home. A phone call at that hour is the fear of every military spouse. As the Army sergeant at the other end of the line spoke, Deanna felt both relief and horror.

"At least he's alive," she remembers thinking. "The sergeant told me Dave was injured, but he was stable. I hung up the phone, looked at my mom for a minute, and then just started bawling. I was terrified I would lose Dave."

As Oman underwent transport from Baghdad to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany to Brooke Army Medical Center, Deanna – numb with fear and worry – prepared to join her injured husband. He arrived in Texas on May 18. Deanna arrived a day later.

"When I finally got to be with Dave, the doctors warned me not to touch him," she recalls. "I couldn't touch him for three weeks – not even a little kiss. I guess they thought I might get an infection or something from a virus that Dave could have brought home from Iraq. It was the longest wait of my life. I was going crazy."

Once the couple knew he would recover, the Omans had difficult decisions to make. It didn't take long for them to realize staying in Texas was out of the question. Oman's uncertain future with the Army made it impossible for them to secure a loan for a house. They considered renting an apartment, but they couldn't even afford that. After more than a year of surgeries and rehabilitation – facing an uncertain future and mounting financial

problems – they returned to Milton-Freewater.

"It took what little I was able to save to get back home," Oman says. "After renting a truck, buying gas, paying for food and motel rooms – well, we were broke."

The Homecoming. Oman is an independent, private man, a responsible provider for his family. But as autumn 2005 turned to winter, he knew he was in trouble. Relatives helped the family the best they could, but there was too little income to care for their needs. Christmas looked bleak. Oman had barely enough money to feed and clothe his family. He had no job and held little hope one would materialize. The former cavalry sergeant possessed few civilian skills to get a job. The Army had taught him how to fight a war, but there was not much call for that in Milton-Freewater. "If it weren't for the loss of my eye, I guess I'd be qualified to enforce the law or maybe even break the law," he says, his lips forming a wry smile. "But one eye won't cut it in law enforcement, and my eye patch makes me too recognizable to be a successful crook."

As much as he resisted the idea, Oman knew he needed help, and the community responded. The Milton-Freewater American Legion and other local veterans organizations there and in Walla Walla pitched in. The Oregon Veterans Motorcycle Association helped. Milton-Freewater Elks hosted a Stars and Stripes potato-bar buffet and silent auction. Local Kiwanis and Lions clubs donated goods and money to help the family pay past-due car payments, medical bills and other living expenses. Individual contribution after contribution poured in.

"It was like everyone in the community pitched in to turn what we thought was going to be the worst Christmas of our lives into the best Christmas of our lives," Oman says. "It was amazing how total strangers took time out of their lives to help us."

Local attorney Andy Millar, a Post 24 Legionnaire and American Legion Department of Oregon judge advocate, is widely considered the driving force behind the massive show of support. He takes little credit.

"I remember getting a call from Nancy Wilmes, the Oregon Legion department secretary, a few days before Christmas," Millar says. "She told me Legion National Headquarters had just notified her

How a community becomes a Hometown for Heroes

Contact the Military Severely Injured Center toll-free at **(888) 774-1361**. Informational materials can be downloaded online at www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/troops/injuredsupport.

about Oman's plight. I made a few phone calls, and it just sort of snowballed."

It was easy for the community to rally around the Army hero and his family, Millar says. Oman was a local boy who joined the Army out of a sense of duty to serve his country. His sacrifice so moved Wilmes that she bought winter coats for the entire family.

"We owe our liberty to the likes of Dave Oman and other brave men and women who answer our country's call," Millar says. "They are heroes by any standard. The least we can do as individuals and as a community is to assist our servicemen and women during their transition to civilian life. All of them put their personal lives on hold and put life and limb in jeopardy."

Oman can't help but wonder how he and his family would have survived the winter without the support and generosity of the tiny Oregon community he calls home. He is especially thankful for Millar's leadership.

"Andy was there every time we needed help," Oman says. "He was the go-to man, the man who got things rolling, and the man who made the phone calls to make things happen. The whole community pitched in, and we are grateful for each and every person and organization who helped us. But Andy is special. I think everyone will agree."

Today, thanks to the support and outreach of his community, the Oman family's future is bright. VA disability compensation, GI Bill benefits and a payment from Traumatic Injury Servicemembers Group Life Insurance are making it possible for him to provide for his family and pursue higher education. He says that if it wasn't for the people around him who stepped up, he's not sure what would have happened.

"It is important that local communities really support these injured young men and women when they return from military service," Oman says. "Believe me, such community support can make all the difference. It did for me and my family."

However, most folks back home have no idea about combat experience and what it does to a human being, he adds. As young Americans return to their hometowns physically or psychologically

harmed from war, they look to veterans for a type of support they can't get elsewhere, Oman says.

"It's important that veterans hook up with returning soldiers," he says. "Even though they're separated by age, they share common experiences."

A New Reality. Advanced medical technology and battlefield treatment save Oman and those like him. Soldiers who sustained similar wounds in World War II or Vietnam most likely would have died, according to a 2004 study in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. But for every four U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq, nine others have survived their wounds, says the report's author, Dr. Atul Gawande, a surgeon at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

In World War II, 30 percent of Americans injured in combat died, Gawande writes. In Vietnam, the number dropped to 24 percent. And in combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, only about 10 percent of U.S. soldiers injured lost their lives.

Today, battlefield doctors concentrate on damage control, not repair, Gawande writes. If injuries warrant, a soldier wounded in Iraq or Afghanistan is quickly flown from the battlefield to Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio or Walter Reed in Washington. During the Vietnam War, it often took 45 days to transfer a wounded soldier back to the United

States. Today it takes less than four.

More than 18,000 U.S. soldiers have been wounded since combat operations began in Afghanistan and Iraq, DoD reports. More than 9,700 returned to duty within 72 hours, while 8,400 others were incapacitated longer. Others, unable to return to duty, were discharged. Hundreds are amputees, and hundreds more have been severely burned or sustained debilitating head injuries.

Increased battlefield survivability is a testament to advanced military equipment, improved medical technology and innovative treatment strategies, military and medical professionals say. But with success comes obligation. Injured soldiers, particularly those with severe injuries, now require unprecedeted support after they return home, where they soon become worried about money,

What your community can do

- Organize a welcome-home celebration
- Help secure temporary and/or permanent housing
- Assist in adapting a home or vehicle
- Find jobs and educational opportunities
- Create a carpool for hospital visits
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how they are going to get from place to place with their decreased mobility, career prospects and education. Some require personal or family counseling. Left on their own to cope, wounded warriors and their families can quite easily be overwhelmed.

Many local communities, much like Milton-Freewater, launch support activities only after an injured soldier returns home, Millar says. It's not that they don't care. It's that they don't know the degree of need and how and when it must be met. Oman and his family were home three months before the community was alerted to their struggle. Things moved quickly once people were aware of their circumstances, but there was little time to create a plan of action.

Now, through a recently formed partnership, communities have a better chance than ever to help wounded warriors move on with their lives.

Heroes To Hometowns. The Pentagon and The American Legion, in a joint effort to tailor programs to the individual needs of injured U.S. soldiers recently discharged, have formed a partnership aimed at easing transition from active duty to civilian life. The arrangement gives local communities time to gather resources and develop programs to provide for the needs of a returning soldier and his or her family, in advance.

In March, DoD appointed The American Legion as the organizational point of contact in each state in forming Heroes to Hometowns committees in local communities. The Legion is charged with coordinating the efforts of local veterans service groups and other nonprofit organizations, business leaders, chambers of commerce, state and local governments, congressional liaisons, churches, local military units, unions, and financial, legal and educational organizations interested in providing support.

"Because of its national support system and the services it provides, The American Legion is in a unique position to partner with DoD to coordinate services with VA and other agencies to support the extraordinary needs of severely injured servicemembers and their families," Navy Cmdr. Dave Julian, director of the Military Severely Injured Center in Arlington, Va., said at the Legion's annual Washington Conference in March.

How does the program work? The American Legion National Headquarters will inform state departments and local posts of their roles. Department representatives will provide guidance for the local programs. Meanwhile, National Headquarters will appoint Heroes to Hometowns representatives



Iraq war veteran and Pentagon MSIC office manager Steven Clark, left, talks with Arlington, Va., Post 24 Commander Richard Evans. *James V. Carroll*

in each state who will then communicate directly with DoD and the Military Severely Injured staff, including MSIC's care managers and counselors. As part of the agreement, the Legion will provide a representative to staff The American Legion Heroes to Hometowns information desk at the MSIC office in the Pentagon. In addition, the Legion will track, record and report to the MSIC all efforts made by state Heroes to Hometowns representatives.

DoD will ensure coordinated exchange of information to The American Legion on severely injured servicemembers and provide the lead time necessary for The Legion to coordinate community efforts to provide assistance.

The Heroes to Hometowns collaboration is a logical solution to a complex problem, says American Legion National Commander Thomas Bock. Wherever an injured soldier returns, an American Legion post is nearby, ready, willing and able to welcome home a fellow veteran. "Veterans and their younger brothers and sisters in arms are one," Bock says. "Forged by common experience, we are opposite edges of the same sharpened sword. Whether steeled by battle or honed in peace, we slice our way to the heart of the matter: one for all, all for one. Neither time nor circumstance can tarnish that unwritten oath or dull the obligation. Heroes to Hometowns is an excellent opportunity for us to practice our craft: veterans helping veterans." ☺

James V. Carroll is assistant editor at The American Legion Magazine.

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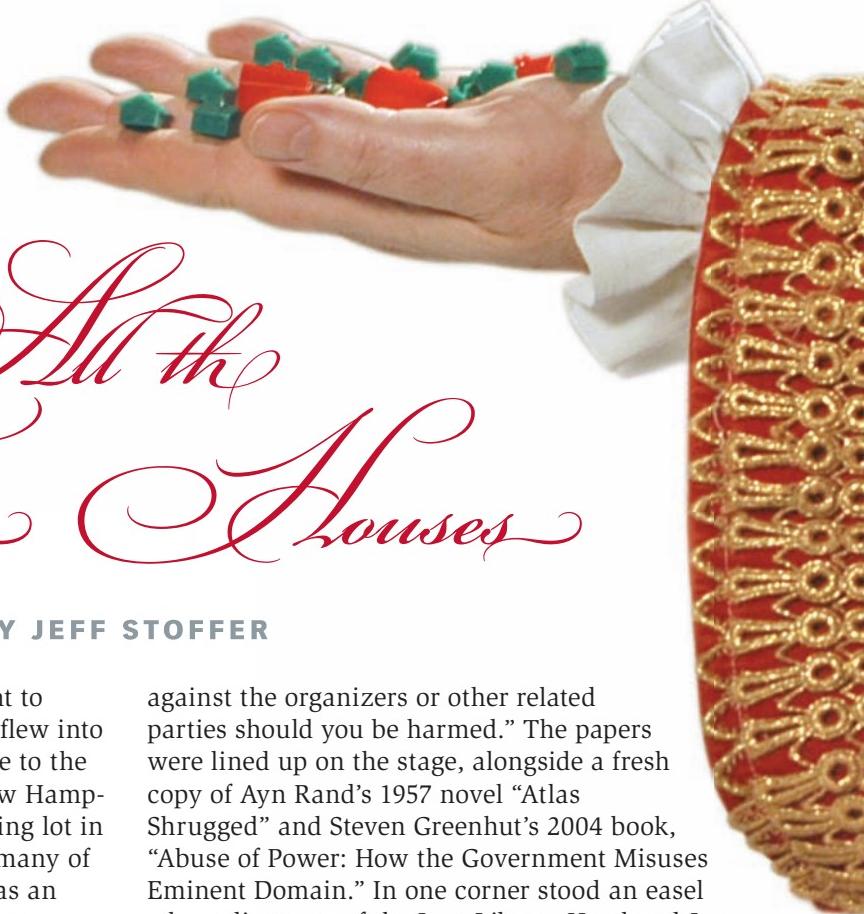
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All the King's Houses

BY JEFF STOFFER

Bill Pierce crossed the continent to march in an army of strangers. He flew into Boston, rented a car and drove alone to the rolling wooded hills of south-central New Hampshire. By the time he pulled into the parking lot in Weare, a sprawling town of about 8,500, many of his accomplices had already arrived. It was an eerily warm January morning during a rare midwinter "brown-out" where the only surviving drifts of snow could be found melting stubbornly in the shadows. But balmy weather wasn't the only strange thing going on this winter Saturday morning in Weare, where residents are accustomed to living-room visits with presidential candidates and occasional sightings of their reclusive neighbor on the U.S. Supreme Court, Associate Justice David Souter. Pierce came in his hunting boots, ready to invade.

Inside the drafty town hall, locals and out-of-staters mingled in stocking caps and fingerless gloves, hovering over gas-station coffees, chattering in groups of two and three. Some hauled in from an SUV boxes filled with maps of the town and flyers promoting Sunday's "Rally for the American Dream." To guide those who would seek signatures during the petition drive was a sample script: "Hi, we're collecting signatures for a project to stop eminent-domain abuse" The script included the disclaimer, "By participating in this event you agree to hold harmless and not pursue legal action

against the organizers or other related parties should you be harmed." The papers were lined up on the stage, alongside a fresh copy of Ayn Rand's 1957 novel "Atlas Shrugged" and Steven Greenhut's 2004 book, "Abuse of Power: How the Government Misuses Eminent Domain." In one corner stood an easel where diagrams of the Lost Liberty Hotel and Just Deserts (sic, Old English spelling, they say) Café were displayed. A documentary filmmaker circled the room, looking for scenes.

Yes, it was one strange winter weekend in Weare.

Pierce, 40, had come all the way from his home in Port Orchard, Wash., because to him government seizure of private property solely for someone else's economic gain is a moral outrage. He passionately believes something deeply American is forfeited when the courts agree it's OK to take someone's home and broker it to a private developer on the mere

potential that such a transfer will increase tax revenue. That's what the Supreme Court agreed on June 23, 2005, by a 5-4 vote, in the landmark *Kelo v. City of New London* decision. Pierce was enraged. He knew he had to do something. When he heard about a scheme to use the power of eminent domain to force Justice Souter, who voted with the majority, out of his rickety 200-year-old farmhouse on the spooky outskirts of Weare, and put the Lost Liberty Hotel in its place, Pierce decided to burn some hard-earned Boeing vacation hours and take



up the cause. "I don't like talking about my rights in the past tense," he said.

"This is not a prank," promoter Logan Darrow Clements said when announcing the hotel project last summer from his Los Angeles office. "The Town of Weare has five people on the board of selectmen. If three of them vote to use the power of eminent domain to take this land ... we can begin our hotel development."

A local group called the Committee for the Protection of Natural Rights led the movement in Weare. Clements and his company, Freestar Media – which is guided by Rand's philosophy of objectivism and an unabashed disdain of government intervention in a free society – took it national.

Four days after the *Kelo* decision, Clements notified Weare officials of the plan. National media soon picked up the story, which got good play on talk radio and the Drudge Report. "Rush Limbaugh read my entire press release word for word on his show, laughing, saying this is the greatest thing, and that added gasoline to the fire," Clements said. "Then it was all over every blog. I couldn't even keep track. No way to keep track. My Web site went from 180 visitors the day before to 370,000 unique visitors the next day."

Developers across the country wanted in. Clements interviewed nearly 30 before settling on Texas builder Mike Michaud. "I heard about it on

talk radio in Dallas," Michaud said. "So I sent an e-mail. Then I called. I asked what everybody else was asking: what can I do? I'm in the business of building homes. So, I thought, why not build a home for America?"

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Michaud joined the mid-January rally and walked the muddy roads of Weare with volunteers who came from as far away as Virginia, Texas, California and Pennsylvania. Driveway to driveway, door to door, they stopped every adult they saw and asked them to sign the petition, which committed little more than moral support of the plan to seize Souter's property; the measure already had a reservation on the March ballot. Some volunteers came because they, themselves, claimed to be victims of property takings elsewhere. Others showed up because they think the *Kelo* ruling widens the gap between the rich and the poor, spawning a kind of postmodern feudalism. Petitioners were liberals and conservatives, locals and out-of-towners, men and women, wealthy and not, who came on their own dimes to usher eminent-domain abuse onto the grand stage of political theater. Major media continued to cover the story as events unfolded, and Clements became a regular on the talk-show circuit.

When asked why he cares so much about it, Pierce reached for his wallet. "It's for these guys – my kids, and for their kids," he said, flipping through the photos. "To me, property rights are inseparable from freedom. The tendency of

freedom is to diminish over time. And so you've got to fight its erosion every step of the way."

"No state shall ... deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of the law."

14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

For the ordinary person, the term "eminent domain" can be difficult to digest. Schoolchildren are taught to distinguish "imminent" from "eminent" with images of thunderstorms and kings. "Domain" can be a place on earth or in space, even cyberspace. That the king can claim your place on earth is the power of eminent domain. Its exercise is often simply called "takings." In a nation where property ownership is routinely regarded as a leading factor in America's prosperity, the idea of government "takings" doesn't set well with people like those who came to march in Weare last winter.

"Private property ownership is one thing that sets America apart," said William Deans of Allentown, Pa., who alone collected 43 signatures. "I think this issue should be bigger than abortion, bigger than gay rights, but it's not in people's minds as much as it should be. This is a tremendous, tremendous reduction of people's rights, and tremendous potential for abuse and corruption." He said he is fighting eminent-domain seizure of his own two rental properties and his home.

U.S. government entities have always reserved

some power to force a sale of private property for public uses, like the building or expanding of roads, canals, power lines, military bases or schools. And where ill-kept private property presents a safety or sanitation concern, the government can declare it as "blighted," condemn it, and seize it under the power of eminent domain. The government is supposed to pay a fair price – "just compensation" under the Constitution – but the price is based on real estate alone, ignoring intangibles like a brake shop's familiar location, the unrealized gains of a costly home-improvement project or, equally important, the pricelessness of a place owned and loved by an individual.

Definitions of "blight" and "just compensation" are at the core of most eminent-domain legal struggles. But *Kelo* firmly added to the mix the metamorphosis of "public use" (road, canal, power line, etc.) to "public benefit" (hotel, mall, casino, pro football stadium or anything else that stands to raise tax revenue) as a basis for seizing property from one person and handing it off to another. It was a shift "50 years in the making," said Steven Anderson, coordinator of the Castle Coalition, a watchdog organization attached to the Institute for Justice, which defends property owners fighting eminent-domain abuse.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, writing for the dissent in *Kelo*, illuminated the threshold the Court had crossed by blessing the "public benefit"



The eminent-domain LANDSLIDE

Two years ago, the Michigan Supreme Court voted 7-0 to reverse its infamous 1981 decision that allowed the city of Detroit to use the power of eminent domain to bulldoze the working-class Poletown community – more than 1,300 homes, 140 businesses, six churches and a hospital – to clear space for a new General Motors plant promising 6,000 jobs. The memory of the disaster that followed that decision still lingered 23 years later when the Michigan court denied a county's similar wishes to seize private land for industrial development.

Poletown was a widely publicized example of eminent domain's potential for catastrophe. After families were forced out, the plant created about half the jobs it promised, and the project is believed to have actually lost the community jobs and tax revenue alike. Poletown was nonetheless a landmark ruling in its time, one that paved the way for economics-driven eminent-domain condemnations nationwide. Local governments and their development corporations began using the "public benefit" definition to take private properties and broker them to other owners. In the past 25 years, thousands of eminent-domain seizures have been threatened or executed across the nation. The Castle Coalition, a watchdog organization, monitors current eminent-domain cases and provides legal advocacy. The coalition's Web site can be found at www.castlecoalition.org. Following are some of the cases that, as of March 2006, were on the group's radar:



Freeport, Texas – Hours after the *Kelo* decision, officials in Freeport began legal filings to seize the waterfront property of two seafood companies to make way for an \$8 million private boat marina. In November 2005, the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals lifted a court order that had prevented the city from moving forward with its condemnation efforts. One of the plots that city officials planned to take by eminent domain is Western Seafood, a shrimp-packing operation that has been in the same family for years.

California City, Calif. – Officials declared more than 700 acres of Mojave Desert land,

definition. "Today the Court abandons this long-held, basic limitation on government power. Under the banner of economic development, all private property is now vulnerable to being taken and transferred to another private owner, so long as it might be upgraded – i.e., given to an owner who will use it in a way that the legislature deems more beneficial to the public."

Weare resident Gary Hopper, a former member of the New Hampshire House of Representatives, put it this way: "The *Kelo* decision, in effect, means you no longer own your own property. You're just holding it until the government decides what to do with it. It's a bizarre, radical diversion from the Constitution."

"(A) just government ... impartially secures to every man whatever is his own."

James Madison

Bill Pierce collected his map and followed it to East Lake Shore Drive, a narrow, rutted road above the good ice-fishing water of Lake Horace in the northeast quadrant of Weare. He slipped along in the rental car, past cabins with their iced-over sun decks, blanketed snowmobiles and open carports where license plates inside display the state motto: "Live Free or Die."

Pierce went as far as he could, then stopped. In the middle of the road stood a burly man with a pick axe. He slammed the axe into the road, bringing up a spray of ice chunks and mud. Pierce,

owned by 246 owners, "urbanized" and "blighted" and condemned it to put in an auto test track.

San Diego – Ahmad Mesdaq's elegant and profitable cigar and coffee bar was condemned in June 2005 to make way for a Marriott Renaissance Hotel. Another Marriott is within view of his property. Ironically, Mesdaq and his family were driven out of their home in Afghanistan by the Soviet Union when he was a child. (*Video clip at www.freestarmedia.com*)

Indianapolis – The N.K. Hurst Company, a third-generation family business that has produced bean products in the

same building for 67 years, fought involuntary relocation for nearly two years until reaching a settlement in April. The Indiana Stadium and Convention Center Building Authority threatened to use eminent domain to replace the bean company to provide 90 parking spaces for the new Indianapolis Colts stadium.

Newport, Ky. – The city borrowed \$12 million to force residents out of a neighborhood of 100 homes to build a shopping center. The developer backed out, leaving the city with the land and the debt.

Brooklyn Center, Minn. – The 8.5-acre Hmong American Shopping Center, built in the

unarmed, got out and met Larry Rothaus, a Navy veteran and American Legion member, along with his wife, daughter and granddaughter, who were all working up a good Saturday-morning sweat breaking up the mess that had covered their road.

The Rothauses needed no explanation of eminent domain, nor of the Lost Liberty Hotel campaign. They'd heard all about it. "I think it's great," Rothaus said, a grin forming beneath his bushy moustache. "If they can do it to someone, they can do it to anyone."

The cabin just below where they stood, along with 150 feet of waterfront, has belonged to Larry and Estella Rothaus for about 10 years. They built it up from a barely inhabitable camping shelter. For the past four years, it has been their full-time home. "I want to live here, and I want to pass it along to my daughter," Rothaus explained, as his daughter, Corynne, chipped away at the ice. "I wouldn't sell it for \$300,000."

The threat of an eminent-domain taking by someone who covets his property as a possible condominium development is not lost on Rothaus. "I can understand the use of eminent domain if it's for infrastructure, but it isn't for infrastructure anymore. It's to make some developer rich."

Rothaus gladly signed. Pierce was one for one.

And thus began his trek that strange Saturday in Weare, driving and parking, jogging and back-tracking, going door to door, up and down muddy, icy driveways, pitching his case to people he never met before nor would ever meet again. He moved

quickly, trotting between cabins, up and down wooden steps to the front doors of modest lakefront homes. A man in Bermuda shorts appeared. "No opinion." A voice came bellowing from above that if Pierce proceeded onto his property, he risked being shot. Pierce explained from the road what he was doing. The resident let him up. Pierce soon returned. "Six for seven," he said. Another cabin wanted more literature. One had no idea what he was talking about. One said he could care less because he was a millionaire and didn't need to worry about it, or much else. A few residents said they wouldn't sign because they considered Souter a personal friend. Pierce often had to explain why it's a good idea to abuse eminent domain against Souter when the abuse of eminent domain is so repulsive; he answered by calling the Lost Liberty Hotel an "inoculation against a bigger disease." A retired police officer told Pierce that "if the judge made a decision, we have to follow it." Pierce met one man in a front yard, beneath a flagpole. They talked. He signed. Pierce helped one woman re-set her bird feeder; she signed. He stopped a mail carrier. "That was a no." He confronted a couple, split on the issue. One signed, and the other went back inside. "I'm seeing two types," Pierce said, huffing from the route. "The disinterested and the super-supportive."

It went on like that, until about 6 p.m., too late and dark to pester people anymore about eminent-domain abuse.

"We emphasize that nothing in our opinion precludes any State from placing further restrictions on its takings power."

Associate Justice John Paul Stevens,
writing in *Kelo v. City of New London*

Fifteen residents, led by Susette Kelo of the historic Fort Trumbull neighborhood of New London, Conn., were unwilling to give up their waterfront homes to make room for a new luxury hotel, condominiums and office buildings. Some of the homes had been in the same families' hands for generations. Kelo bought hers in 1997 and restored it. She cherished her view of the river. But a year later, the New London Development Corp., to which the city had delegated its power of eminent domain, determined the entire area be turned over for upscale redevelopment, as envisioned by a major pharmaceutical company that had a nearby facility. There was no blight, just a desire to replace the people living there with different people in different structures.

Kelo and her neighbors began fighting the

proceedings, ultimately winding their way to last summer's crescendo in the Supreme Court. When the Court ruled, in essence, that states can determine their own definitions of "public benefit," the homeowners lost, developers won, and state legislators across the country started looking more closely at their own eminent-domain laws.

"The floodgates are opening to abuse," a report prepared for the Institute for Justice observed in September 2005. "Already the ruling has emboldened governments and developers seeking to take property from home and small-business owners ... In the first two months after the decision, more than 30 municipalities began condemnation proceedings for private development or took action to authorize them in the near future."

Anderson of the Castle Coalition said everyone was waiting for the *Kelo* decision. "Within hours of the ruling," he said, cities across America launched condemnation proceedings to get ahead of state laws that might be coming to restrict them. "Developers know they can get property through eminent domain easier than through private negotiation," Anderson said. "And governments are all too willing to provide this service to them."

"There are folks touting this as a states' rights victory, but states do not have the right to deny your protection, granted by the Constitution," said Joshua Solomon, a Lost Liberty Hotel supporter and a candidate for Weare's board of selectmen last spring. "States must govern themselves within the framework of the Constitution. That's why they ratified it."

Justice John Paul Stevens, delivering the *Kelo* opinion, didn't see it that way. "Promoting economic development is a traditional and long-accepted governmental function, and there is no principled way of distinguishing it from the other public purposes the Court has recognized," he wrote. "The Court declines to second-guess the wisdom of the city to effectuate its plan."

Anderson said only "a handful of academics and the beneficiaries of eminent-domain abuse" agree with the idea of economic-development takings. The Institute for Justice conducted a study that found no fewer than 10,000 such takings were concocted in the United States between 1998 and 2000. A new study expected to be released later this year will show the number of takings ballooned at an even faster rate between 2000 and 2005, Anderson said.

The flurry is not because eminent-domain takings for economic reasons are anything new; it's just that the *Kelo* decision did nothing to restrain them. "The federal government has been taking private property and turning it over to other

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private parties for a variety of uses since the early days of the republic," wrote Carla T. Main, former opinion-page editor of the *National Law Journal*, in a comprehensive article on the subject titled "How Eminent Domain Ran Amok," posted at www.policyreview.org on the Web. "(The) *Kelo* case was fueled by a different type of fervor, and one with far greater potential for mischief than in the 21st century: economic development. The homes of the petitioners in *Kelo* were marked for eminent domain not because they were blighted, but because they stood in the way of the city's plan to increase its tax base and jazz up what officials saw as a depressed waterfront in their town."

More importantly, according to the Institute for Justice report, "by declaring that there are virtually no constitutional limitations on the ability of cities to take property from A and give it to B, the Court invited more abuse and thus made the problem of eminent-domain abuse much worse."

The report added another point, the one that drove Bill Pierce to get involved. "*Kelo* threw a spotlight on an already-existing practice that an overwhelming majority of people find outrageous and un-American."

Anderson said many state legislatures in America have, in the aftermath of *Kelo*, pushed forward bills to restrict eminent-domain abuse while at the same time business consultants are giving seminars on how developers can use *Kelo* to legally seize property from owners unwilling to sell. "Reforms are all across the board," Anderson said. "We have seen every legislature consider the issue."

The U.S. House of Representatives also passed H.R. 4128 in an attempt to tighten up federal economic-development funding to governments that use the power of eminent domain to seize property and broker it to others. "I think you will continue to see reforms," Anderson said. "It's on people's minds. Prior to *Kelo*, people never thought the power could be used for a Wal-Mart or a luxury hotel. Now when they hear about eminent domain, their antennae go up."

There's more at stake than the issue at hand, Solomon said. "If *Kelo* is allowed to stand and legislators don't adjust the laws, we're heading down a slippery slope. We've seen it before – Supreme Court decisions that erode our rights. The First, Second, and now we're down to our Fifth Amendment rights. There's a short period of public outcry, then nothing. It's lost. The issue dies, and we quietly forget about freedoms and protections we once had. I don't focus on eminent domain specifically. I focus on our constitutional rights, which are slowly being dwindled away by bad

Supreme Court decisions, federal court decisions and legislating from the bench."

**"Rebellion gave birth to America.
Rebellion is what we need right now."**

Logan Darrow Clements, Freestar Media

The Lost Liberty Hotel and Just Deserts Café did not survive last spring's election season in Weare. The ballot initiative to seize Souter's property failed. Solomon and another pro-hotel candidate for the board of selectmen were not elected. The strange winter weekend – the Saturday petition drive and Sunday's "Rally for the American Dream" at the town hall – was just a lingering memory when the ice on Lake Horace finally dissolved. Supporters of the project complained that town officials watered down the language of the warrant article; instead of issuing a green light to seize Souter's land, the measure called on the state of New Hampshire to adopt stronger laws restricting the power of eminent domain.

While the Institute for Justice continues to fight in court for people who don't want to be forced off their property, and while states across the country are debating bills that address eminent-domain abuse in America, Clements was moving on to new chapters of the movement he hopes will turn him into "an objectivist Michael Moore" complete with a documentary movie that will expose to all what he believes is a government grown dangerously large and powerful. "The goal of my movie is to get a videotape of a guy being dragged out of his house by police," Clements said. "When the American people see what it really means, that's where the rubber meets the road."

Souter – who may well have been the guy dragged from his house if the Lost Liberty Hotel had been approved – never issued an opinion about the stunt. At least for now, he's safe from an eminent-domain taking because New Hampshire lawmakers acted urgently to protect property owners from eminent-domain abuse. In the wake of *Kelo* and on the audacity of the Lost Liberty Hotel plan, Souter and thousands of other U.S. property owners can be thankful that the issue found its way into the national spotlight for much of a year, culminating on a strange winter weekend in Weare. At least partly due to that, change may be coming.

"Sometimes," Clements said, "like our forefathers, when your adversaries are stronger than you are, you have to fight back in creative ways." ☺

Jeff Stoffer is managing editor of The American Legion Magazine.

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ADVAIR should not be used to relieve sudden symptoms or sudden breathing problems. Always have a fast-acting inhaler with you to treat sudden breathing difficulty. If you do not have a fast-acting inhaler, contact your doctor to have one prescribed for you.

What is ADVAIR DISKUS?

There are two medicines in ADVAIR: Fluticasone propionate, an inhaled anti-inflammatory belonging to a group of medicines commonly referred to as corticosteroids; and salmeterol, a long-acting, inhaled bronchodilator belonging to a group of medicines commonly referred to as beta₂-agonists. There are 3 strengths of ADVAIR: 100/50, 250/50, 500/50.

For Asthma

- ADVAIR is approved for the maintenance treatment of asthma in patients 4 years of age and older. ADVAIR should only be used if your doctor decides that another asthma controller medicine alone does not control your asthma or that you need 2 asthma controller medications.
- The strength of ADVAIR approved for patients ages 4 to 11 years who experience symptoms on an inhaled corticosteroid is ADVAIR DISKUS 100/50. All 3 strengths are approved for patients with asthma ages 12 years and older.

For COPD associated with chronic bronchitis

ADVAIR 250/50 is the only approved dose for the maintenance treatment of airflow obstruction in patients with COPD associated with chronic bronchitis. The benefit of using ADVAIR for longer than 6 months has not been evaluated. The way anti-inflammatories work in the treatment of COPD is not well defined.

Who should not take ADVAIR DISKUS?

You should not start ADVAIR if your asthma is becoming significantly or rapidly worse, which can be life threatening. Serious respiratory events, including death, have been reported in patients who started taking salmeterol in this situation, although it is not possible to tell whether salmeterol contributed to these events. This may also occur in patients with less severe asthma.

You should not take ADVAIR if you have had an allergic reaction to it or any of its components (salmeterol, fluticasone propionate, or lactose). Tell your doctor if you are allergic to ADVAIR, any other medications, or food products. If you experience an allergic reaction after taking ADVAIR, stop using ADVAIR immediately and contact your doctor. Allergic reactions are when you experience one or more of the following: choking; breathing problems; swelling of the face, mouth and/or tongue; rash; hives; itching; or welts on the skin.

Tell your doctor about the following:

- If you are using your fast-acting inhaler more often or using more doses than you normally do (e.g., 4 or more inhalations of your fast-acting inhaler for 2 or more days in a row or a whole canister of your fast-acting inhaler in 8 weeks' time), it could be a sign that your asthma is getting worse. If this occurs, tell your doctor immediately.
- If you have been using your fast-acting inhaler regularly (e.g., four times a day). Your doctor may tell you to stop the regular use of these medications.
- If your peak flow meter results decrease. Your doctor will tell you the numbers that are right for you.
- If you have asthma and your symptoms do not improve after using ADVAIR regularly for 1 week.
- If you have been on an oral steroid, like prednisone, and are now using ADVAIR. You should be very careful as you may be less able to heal after surgery, infection, or serious injury. It takes a number of months for the body to recover its ability to make its own steroid hormones after use of oral steroids. Switching from an oral steroid may also unmask a condition previously suppressed by the oral steroid such as allergies, conjunctivitis, eczema, arthritis, and eosinophilic conditions. Symptoms of an eosinophilic condition can include rash, worsening breathing problems, heart complications, and/or feeling of "pins and needles" or numbness in the arms and legs. Talk to your doctor immediately if you experience any of these symptoms.
- Sometimes patients experience unexpected bronchospasm right after taking ADVAIR. This condition can be life threatening and if it occurs, you should immediately stop using ADVAIR and seek immediate medical attention.
- If you have any type of heart disease such as coronary artery disease, irregular heart beat or high blood pressure, ADVAIR should be used with caution. Be sure to talk with your doctor about your condition because salmeterol, one of the components of ADVAIR, may affect the heart by increasing heart rate and blood pressure. It may cause symptoms such as heart fluttering, chest pain, rapid heart rate, tremor, or nervousness.
- If you have seizures, overactive thyroid gland, liver problems, or are sensitive to certain medications for breathing.
- If your breathing problems get worse over time or if your fast-acting inhaler does not work as well for you while using ADVAIR. If your breathing problems worsen quickly, get emergency medical care.
- If you have been exposed to or currently have chickenpox or measles or if you have an immune system problem. Patients using medications that weaken the immune system are more likely to get infections than healthy individuals. ADVAIR contains a corticosteroid (fluticasone propionate) which may weaken the immune system. Infections like chickenpox and measles, for example, can be very serious or even fatal in susceptible patients using corticosteroids.

How should I take ADVAIR DISKUS?

ADVAIR should be used 1 inhalation, twice a day (morning and evening). ADVAIR should never be taken more than 1 inhalation twice a day. The full benefit of taking ADVAIR may take 1 week or longer.

If you miss a dose of ADVAIR, just skip that dose. Take your next dose at your usual time. Do not take two doses at one time.

Do not stop using ADVAIR unless told to do so by your doctor because your symptoms might get worse.

Do not change or stop any of your medicines used to control or treat your breathing problems. Your doctor will adjust your medicines as needed.

When using ADVAIR, remember:

- Never breathe into or take the DISKUS® apart.
- Always use the DISKUS in a level position.
- After each inhalation, rinse your mouth with water without swallowing.
- Never wash any part of the DISKUS. Always keep it in a dry place.
- Never take an extra dose, even if you feel you did not receive a dose.
- Discard 1 month after removal from the foil overwrap.
- Do not use ADVAIR with a spacer device.

Children should use ADVAIR with an adult's help as instructed by the child's doctor.

Can I take ADVAIR DISKUS with other medications?

Tell your doctor about all the medications you take, including prescription and nonprescription medications, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

If you are taking ADVAIR, you should not take SEREVENT® DISKUS or Foradil® Aerolizer® for any reason.

If you take ritonavir (an HIV medication), tell your doctor. Ritonavir may interact with ADVAIR and could cause serious side effects. The anti-HIV medicines Norvir® Soft Gelatin Capsules, Norvir Oral Solution, and Kaletra® contain ritonavir.

No formal drug interaction studies have been performed with ADVAIR.

In clinical studies, there were no differences in effects on the heart when ADVAIR was taken with varying amounts of albuterol. The effect of using ADVAIR in patients with asthma while taking more than 9 puffs a day of albuterol has not been studied.

ADVAIR should be used with extreme caution during and up to 2 weeks after treatment with monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitors or tricyclic antidepressants since these medications can cause ADVAIR to have an even greater effect on the circulatory system.

ADVAIR should be used with caution in people who are taking ketoconazole (an antifungus medication) or other drugs broken down by the body in a similar way. These medications can cause ADVAIR to have greater steroid side effects.

Generally, people with asthma should not take beta-blockers because they counteract the effects of beta-agonists and may also cause severe bronchospasm. However, in some cases, for instance, following a heart attack, selective beta-blockers may still be used if there is no acceptable alternative.

The ECG changes and/or low blood potassium that may occur with some diuretics may be made worse by ADVAIR, especially at higher-than-recommended doses. Caution should be used when these drugs are used together.

In clinical studies, there was no difference in side effects when ADVAIR was taken with methylxanthines (e.g., theophylline) or with FLONASE®.

What are other important safety considerations with ADVAIR DISKUS?

Osteoporosis: Long-term use of inhaled corticosteroids may result in bone loss (osteoporosis). Patients who are at risk for increased bone loss (tobacco use, advanced age, inactive lifestyle, poor nutrition, family history of osteoporosis, or long-term use of drugs such as corticosteroids) may have a greater risk with ADVAIR. If you have risk factors for bone loss, you should talk to your doctor about ways to reduce your risk and whether you should have your bone density evaluated.

Glaucoma and cataracts: Glaucoma, increased pressure in the eyes, and cataracts have been reported with the use of inhaled steroids, including fluticasone propionate, a medicine contained in ADVAIR. Regular eye examinations should be considered if you are taking ADVAIR.

Lower respiratory tract infection: Lower respiratory tract infections, including pneumonia, have been reported with the use of inhaled corticosteroids, including ADVAIR.

Blood sugar: Salmeterol may affect blood sugar and/or cause low blood potassium in some patients, which could lead to a side effect like an irregular heart rate. Significant changes in blood sugar and blood potassium were seen infrequently in clinical studies with ADVAIR.

Growth: Inhaled steroids may cause a reduction in growth velocity in children and adolescents.

Steroids: Taking steroids can affect your body's ability to make its own steroid hormones, which are needed during infections and times of severe stress to your body, such as an operation. These effects can sometimes be seen with inhaled steroids (but it is more common with oral steroids), especially when taken at higher-than-recommended doses over a long period of time. In some cases, these effects may be severe. Inhaled steroids often help control symptoms with less side effects than oral steroids.

Yeast infections: Patients taking ADVAIR may develop yeast infections of the mouth and/or throat ("thrush") that should be treated by their doctor.

Tuberculosis or other untreated infections: ADVAIR should be used with caution, if at all, in patients with tuberculosis, herpes infections of the eye, or other untreated infections.

What are the other possible side effects of ADVAIR DISKUS?

ADVAIR may produce side effects in some patients. In clinical studies, the most common side effects with ADVAIR included:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Respiratory infections | • Bronchitis | • Musculoskeletal pain |
| • Throat irritation | • Cough | • Dizziness |
| • Hoarseness | • Headaches | • Fever |
| • Sinus infection | • Nausea and vomiting | • Ear, nose, and throat infections |
| • Yeast infection of the mouth | • Diarrhea | • Nosebleed |

Tell your doctor about any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away. These are not all the side effects with ADVAIR. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information.

What if I am pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or nursing?

Talk to your doctor about the benefits and risks of using ADVAIR during pregnancy, labor, or if you are nursing. There have been no studies of ADVAIR used during pregnancy, labor, or in nursing women. Salmeterol is known to interfere with labor contractions. It is not known whether ADVAIR is excreted in breast milk, but other corticosteroids have been detected in human breast milk. Fluticasone propionate, like other corticosteroids, has been associated with birth defects in animals (e.g., cleft palate and fetal death). Salmeterol showed no effect on fertility in rats at 180 times the maximum recommended daily dose.

What other important tests were conducted with ADVAIR?

There is no evidence of enhanced toxicity with ADVAIR compared with the components administered separately. In animal studies with doses much higher than those used in humans, salmeterol was associated with uterine tumors. Your healthcare professional can tell you more about how drugs are tested on animals and what the results of these tests may mean to your safety.

For more information on ADVAIR DISKUS

This page is only a brief summary of important information about ADVAIR DISKUS. For more information, talk to your doctor. You can also visit www.ADVIAIR.com or call 1-888-825-5249. Patients receiving ADVAIR DISKUS should read the medication guide provided by the pharmacist with the prescription.

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Evolution



Bolivia's dysfunctional new regime tries to disguise cocaine trafficking behind a veil of native culture.

27

BY MICHAEL RADU

If fascism is simply defined as statism plus racism and hatred of democracy, Dec. 18, 2005, witnessed its coming to power in Bolivia, Latin America's poorest, as well as its most dysfunctional and unstable, country. Since achieving independence in 1825, Bolivia has had 189 official military coups – one every 11 months, on average. Since 2000 it has had five presidents, two of whom were democratically elected and chased out of office by radical mobs led by Evo Morales, who last December received a slight majority in the presidential election. So much for the Bolivians' thirst for democracy.

Judging by its voters' behavior, Bolivia – which has a population of 9 million – seems interested in remaining South America's poorest country. The country is both a major producer of coca, the plant best known in modern times as the source of cocaine, and a loser in all its wars – most of which it started – against its five neighbors. In many ways, Bolivia is a black hole in the heart of South America, which is precisely what makes it strategi-

cally important and explains Ernesto "Che" Guevara's having chosen it to jumpstart a communist revolution throughout the continent. Other than coca, Bolivia's only major resource is natural gas in the lowland departments of Santa Cruz, Beni and Tarija.

Demographically, Bolivia is sharply divided between the 55-percent Indian – Aymara and Quechua – highlands around the capital of La Paz and the 45-percent mestizo and white population of the lowlands, centered on Santa Cruz. Thus, the gas and relatively advanced agriculture and managerial skills are all in the non-Indian areas, while mobs, political radicalism and, to some extent, numbers are in the Indian majority region, including the capital.

ABOVE: Bolivian mine workers demand the resignations of Senate and Chamber of Deputies presidents. Last summer, the country's U.S.-backed free market collapsed after only 19 months due to a nationwide protest by labor and coca-farming groups. AP

Hence, the Dec. 18 vote pitted individuals at the two poles of Bolivia's demography, political culture and race against one another.

Jorge Quiroga, 45, served as president from 2000 to 2002 following the resignation of terminally ill Hugo Banzer, under whom Quiroga served as vice president. He was educated as an industrial engineer at Texas A&M University, worked for IBM, married an American and climbed Mount Everest. He leads the Democratic and Social Power (PODEMOS) party, and advocates free markets, free trade and coca control, as well as cooperation with the United States.

Evo Morales, a 46-year-old Aymara Indian, did not finish secondary education. He led the coca planters in the Chapare region, was expelled from Congress in 2002 under accusations of terrorism related to violence against U.S.-funded coca-eradication efforts, and was second runner-up in the 2002 presidential elections. He and his Movement Toward Socialism (MAS) party are vocal admirers and benefit from the largesse of Venezuela's Hugo Chávez. They revere Che Guevara and advocate the legalization of coca, along with nationalization of the gas fields and companies' assets. They describe themselves as a "nightmare" for Washington.

But this is not just a case of a country that was polarized between two opposing ideological approaches and two very different leaders simply letting the people decide. Just like his mentor Chávez, the author of two failed coups against elected governments in Venezuela, Morales' idea of democracy is, "If I win, fine; if not, 'the people' will bring me to power anyway" – as was demonstrated by his direct involvement in the overthrow of two constitutional presidents in the past three years by mob action. Morales' election will make what remains of Bolivian democracy a charade. It will also revive a disturbing memory of Chile in 1970, when Salvador Allende was elected with a third of the vote but interpreted that as a mandate for revolution, which is precisely Morales' plan.

One problem, which will force a reaction from Bolivia's neighbors, is that the non-Indian, productive and indeed progressive regions – mostly Santa Cruz and Tarija – are not ready to tolerate the destruction of their livelihoods by a racist and socialist Indian regime in La Paz, and thus may well be prepared to secede, peacefully or not, if Morales is elected and implements his program.

Bolivian neighbors Brazil and Argentina both have enormous interests in the gas of Tarija, which is largely exploited, extracted and used by their own state-owned companies and which Morales has threatened to nationalize – in fact, to confiscate their



Evo Morales, elected in December as Bolivia's first-ever indigenous president, chews coca leaves during a rally last year with coca farmers in the Chapare region. AP

assets, in disregard of contracts. So far, Brasilia and Buenos Aires have either kept mum or, as President Lula of Brazil stated, saw a great thing in an Indian being a Bolivian candidate. Peru, where a local clone of Morales – Ollanta Humala – is running on a similar platform of Indian racism and "socialism" and who has a similar history of violence against the democratic system, was running second in polls last spring leading up to this year's presidential elections. As for Chile, the mortal enemy of Morales and virtually all Bolivians, Morales is pushing an aggressively revisionist policy, with open encouragement from Hugo Chávez, seeking the "recovery" of sea access lost in 1885. A new military conflict with Chile, which Bolivia will no doubt lose, is therefore highly probable.

And then there is Washington. Morales' destruction of democracy in Bolivia has been tolerated by the Bush administration for years – hence, the absence of any serious reaction when mobs led by Morales overthrew constitutional presidents Gonzales de Lozada and Carlos Meza, even though Morales' promised legalization of coca made a joke of decades-old U.S. efforts to control and limit coca production in South America. Morales claims a historic right to cultivate coca because the Incas did

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it. However, even the Incas controlled its production. In Bolivia, it was never cultivated in the Chapare region. That was a 1980s development, far from "traditional," led by the likes of Morales and openly intended to make big money from cocaine, not from Indians chewing the leaves. Interestingly, when a military junta under Garcia Meza in 1980 got rich from drug trafficking, it was labeled "fascist." But now that Morales is openly proclaiming his intention to do basically the same thing, he calls it "progressive" and "traditional." Naturally enough, Morales claims — as does most of Latin America's left — that coca is part of the traditional Andean culture and Indians have a "right" to produce it. That is totally false. The overwhelming majority of coca is now produced in areas where it was never produced historically — Chapare in Bolivia and Alto Huallaga in Peru, and the only reason for that is the money from cocaine. Traditional coca is cultivated elsewhere, and that, at any rate, is more than enough for local, traditional and actually useful purposes. What Evo Morales and his ilk claim is a right to cocaine trafficking under an "indigenous" mask.

In dealing with Bolivia's dysfunctional political culture, Washington has long fallen behind, out of either discretion or a misguided reliance on Bolivia's neighbors to act in their own self-interest. It may not be too late, if the United States makes some very simple and clear decisions. To begin with, no more aid, in any form whatsoever, for an Evo Morales regime; second, insistence on La Paz's respecting international rules regarding property, on behalf of the threatened Brazilian, Argentine and European companies; third, severe sanctions against Bolivia — including withdrawal of diplomatic recognition, bans on travel by officials, even indictments in U.S. courts — if coca growing is legalized; and fourth, diplomatic, economic, political or other support for any of Bolivia's neighbors who are threatened by a Morales regime. If this leads to the end of Bolivia as we know it, so be it. To hide behind respect for "democracy" when faced with the dubious election — under threat of civil war — of an openly anti-democratic individual is an insult to democracy. ☺

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The coca plant

Leaves of the coca plant are the source of cocaine. Coca was first described by A.L. Jussieu in 1783 and in 1786 was given the name *Erythroxylum coca*.

Coca is believed to be one of the oldest domesticated plants, dating back 2,000 to 3,000 years. Evidence indicates that coca was distributed to areas where it was not grown during this period. This suggests coca was not only important to local populations, but it may have become economically important even during prehistoric times.

Coca leaves have been used for centuries as a stimulant. Pre-Incan Indians used the leaves to relieve altitude sickness, hunger and fatigue. The Spanish who invaded South America discovered that coca leaves increased productivity in slaves who worked the precious-metal mines in the mountains.

In 1859, Albert Niemann isolated the alkaloid cocaine, and in 1860 Angelo Mariani introduced "Vin Mariani," a wine coca beverage. Mariani amassed a fortune from the drink with the help of such notable persons as Sarah Bernhardt, Queen Victoria, Thomas Edison and Pope Leo XIII. By 1868, doctors were using cocaine as a topical and spinal anesthetic. It was later replaced by synthetic forms. In 1884, Sigmund Freud wrote about his experience with cocaine in *Uber Coca*. In 1886, John Styth Pemberton of Atlanta introduced Coca-Cola, which contained cocaine until 1904. Coca-Cola is still made from coca leaves, but the cocaine is removed during production.

Modern medicine has used cocaine to treat eczema, shingles and certain bacterial infections. The most common ancient and modern native use of coca is chewing the leaves. When chewed, coca leaves produce a sense of warmth in the mouth. Because of its potent stimulant and appetite-depressant effects, coca has been used for centuries by South American peasants to ease the effects of punishing physical labor. The amount of cocaine found in the two ounces of dried leaves an Indian consumes in a day is very small, about 0.7 grains.

Modern herbalists have many uses for coca leaves, including the relief of altitude illness (hypoxia), treating gastrointestinal disorders, and easing the discomfort of colds, bruises, sore joints and muscles, sore or swollen feet and headaches.

Sources: "Ethnobotanical Leaflets," a Southern Illinois University publication, and Encyclopaedia Britannica Online

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The week of June 26, the U.S. Senate has a chance to, as Medal of Honor recipient and retired Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady says, “rescue our flag” from 17 years of exposure to legal desecration. S.J. Res. 12 is coming to a vote. A vast majority of the

public supports the measure known as the “flag amendment.” Supermajorities in the House have passed it six times. The Senate is now poised to meet the public’s wishes and return dignity to the world’s most recognized symbol of freedom.

Flag protection is, in fact, a ‘voting issue’

BY RICHARD D. PARKER

This spring, the U.S. Flag made the news again. Several high schools forbade students to display flags and even to wear red, white and blue clothing. The reason: the flag is controversial, they say. It represents one “point of view” with which some disagree, basically no different from a Mexican flag – or, for that matter, a swastika.

This line of argument shocked many Americans. It is, however, the very same line of argument behind the Supreme Court’s conclusion that, under the First Amendment, the flag may not be singled out for legal protection – even when someone

burns it, rips it up or defecates on it.

Soon, the flag amendment – the proposed constitutional amendment that would restore to Congress its longstanding authority to protect the flag from physical desecration – will arrive at a moment of truth.

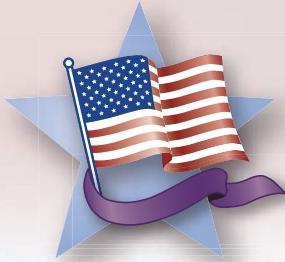
Once again, huge bipartisan majorities in the House and Senate want to send it to the states for debate and ratification, as provided for in the Constitution. This time, just one or two senators stand in the way.

Now, the fundamental issue is coming into a new and sharper focus.

In the past, the debate was about whether the flag deserves protection. That no longer is the crucial issue. The pivotal senators agree that it does, indeed, deserve it.

In the past, the debate was over whether protect-

and Stripes



ing the flag from physical desecration is consistent with respect for freedom of speech. The pivotal senators understand that there is no basic inconsistency since singling out the flag for protection does not involve taking sides in favor of a controversial point of view but, instead, affirms a value that transcends – and, in fact, undergirds – controversy among competing points of view.

In the past, the debate was about those who had the last word in interpreting the Constitution: five people on the Supreme Court, or “We the people”? That, too, is no longer the issue. The pivotal senators recognize that the American people have the right, under Article V of the Constitution, to amend the Constitution – especially, as in this case, to restore to the Constitution its traditional meaning.

What these senators say, however, is that the flag can be protected without an amendment but simply by passing yet another statute. Recently, debate focused on the merits of the statute they propose. But that, now, is no longer the issue, for their statute has been revealed to be empty. It is, at best, a fantasy. Overwhelming majorities in the Senate have rejected it repeatedly, for two reasons. On one hand, most senators see that the terms of the statute, in fact, provide no real protection to the flag. On the other hand, they, along with all credible experts, understand that the statute, if enacted, would be struck down like other such statutes, by at least five of the members of the Supreme Court.

So, what is the fundamental issue now?

It is this: why are the one or two pivotal senators hiding behind this statutory fantasy in defiance of public opinion? And what, in our constitutional democracy, can be done about that?

After talking with members of Congress over 10 years – in public hearings and in private meetings – I believe that two basic convictions underlie the defiant reliance by these senators on so transparent a fantasy. It is appropriate, after all this time, to be blunt in describing those

convictions and in responding to them.

The first conviction has to do with the role and status of the Senate itself – imagined by some senators, perhaps, as a sort of British House of Lords.

The Senate is sometimes said to be the “upper” house of Congress. It differs, to be sure, from the House of Representatives in certain ways. Its special responsibilities, its smaller size and its longer terms of office suggest to some that it is supposed to be the more mature, “deliberative” legislative body. And the vast inequality of population from state to state – each of them with two senators – suggests to some that, as a whole, the Senate is *above* the democratic norm of “one person, one vote.” For some, a conviction may follow that the Senate is supposed to be a less *representative* body, even one that is *above* representation of the views of ordinary people.

What may follow next for certain senators is a conviction that they have a duty, on principle, to resist popular opinion. Indeed, they may suppose they have a special duty when it comes to constitutional matters. While recognizing the right of the people to amend the Constitution, they may imagine themselves as a bulwark against the exercise by the people of that right. Indeed, a few years ago, one retiring senator stated openly – and a veteran senator said to me in private – that among his proudest moments in office were occasions on which he helped to stop any popular amendment of the Constitution.

From that, it is but a small step to justify opposition to any popular amendment with bogus but plausible-sounding arguments – that is, arguments that may sound plausible to ordinary people, such as the illusion of a supposed statutory alternative to the flag amendment.

However well meant, this idea of senators as bulwarks of the constitutional status quo is, in truth, a subversion of the Constitution. It subverts the very foundation of the Constitution, which is popular sovereignty. Indeed, it subverts the Constitution’s conception of the Senate itself.

SJR 12
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Among the founding fathers, there were a few who thought senators should hold office for life, portraying them as a sort of virtuous aristocracy. But that view had almost no support. In fact, it was condemned. That is why, in the original Constitution, senators were subjected to political responsibility – periodically chosen for, and removed from, office by elected state legislatures.

Then in 1913, the 17th Amendment to the Constitution sealed the matter. It provided for the direct popular election of senators. Its purpose was to ensure that the Senate be not only responsible, but also responsive, to the people.

To imagine, in the 21st century, that the U.S. Senate should behave like the unelected, hereditary British House of Lords of the 19th century is especially odd. In Britain, after all, the House of Lords was brought to heel more than 90 years ago. And, today, it is being systematically dismantled – precisely because of its occasional resistance to popular will. Thus has the upper house in Britain come down to earth.

Can our own upper house presume, for long, to resist this democratic law of gravity? No doubt, the vast majority of our senators, nowadays, have no desire to do so. But a few, a pivotal few, may still cling to the aristocratic dream.

The second conviction that underlies the defiance of popular will by these pivotal senators – hiding behind an illusory statutory alternative to the flag amendment – is, I believe, rather different from the first. It accepts the reality of the electoral responsibility of the Senate to the people. But it calculates that, in this case, senators need not heed the discipline of electoral responsibility.

One senator indicated to me that although the flag amendment is supported by most Americans, his own political and financial base is against it. And, he said, for the majority of his constituents it is not a “voting issue.” What he meant is that most people, as he sees it, simply will not vote against a senator who defies their view on this issue. Hence, he concludes, he can go on defying public opinion – claiming the cover of a statutory alternative – without paying any price at the polls.

The accuracy of this perception, however, is now in doubt. In several recent senatorial elections – in Virginia, in South Carolina and in South Dakota, for example – the flag amendment was indeed an issue. In those elections, the candidate supporting the amendment won.

Thus there is but one way, in the end, to correct this mistaken Supreme Court decision and to restore the traditional meaning of the Constitution. It is to vindicate the principle of popular sovereignty

by acting on that principle. That is to say, by acting on it at the ballot box – making the flag amendment a “voting issue” in state after state. And, for that to happen, candidates for the Senate must put it in issue. They have every incentive to do so.

After 17 years, the American people have sustained their support for the flag amendment. No other constitutional amendment proposed in the last quarter-century has enjoyed such active and enduring commitment. Just as rivers run to the sea, the force of such sustained public opinion will, eventually, prevail.

Faith in the potential of American democracy, which all of us share, entails at least that much. ¶

Richard Parker is a Williams professor of law at Harvard University.

Statute approach won't protect Old Glory

A small group of senators who don't support the flag amendment instead are pushing for a statute that would make it illegal to desecrate the flag. Harvard law professor Richard Parker says that approach simply is an excuse to not vote for the amendment and won't make it past the U.S. Supreme Court.

“The reason is that a bare (5-4) majority of the Supreme Court, 17 years ago, held that specific statutory protection of the flag is impermissible,” Parker said. “The five justices said that physical desecration is ‘speech’ and that singling out the American flag for protection amounts, in itself, to favoring one point of view over other competing points of view. Under this reasoning, not just one statute, but any flag-protection statute, will be invalid.”

Parker said those who say they favor protecting the flag need to back up their words with actions. “The ‘swing’ senators claim to disagree with the Court, but they are reluctant to back up their disagreement with their vote,” Parker said. “Instead, they want to imagine the Court never did and said what it did and said. A senator who supports a statute must support the amendment. There is no way around it.”

Know where they stand

To see your senator's position on the flag amendment, visit www.cfa-inc.org on the Web and click on “The Issues” and “Where They Stand,” or call the Citizens Flag Alliance at (317) 630-1384. E-mail the CFA at cfa@cfa-inc.org.

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All it takes is one vote to rescue our flag

BY MAJ. GEN. PATRICK H. BRADY
RETIRED, U.S. ARMY

The flag amendment reads: "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States."

Study those words. Do they say, "Thou shalt not burn the flag"? Do they insert flag protection in the Constitution? Do they, in and of themselves, protect the flag? Could such words assault freedom of speech? Do they criminalize flag burners? Do those words require the Congress to protect the flag? How

do those words change the Constitution?

In truth, the flag amendment does none of these things. Yet many in the media and their cronies claim it does all of these things.

What it does do, and this is important, is it allows Congress to pass a law if it chooses to protect our flag.

Why, then, is the flag amendment important? It is important because the government erred when it inserted flag burning in the Bill of Rights and called it "speech." It is important because the government, through the Supreme Court, took a right away from the American people – the right to protect our flag, a right we enjoyed since our birth as a nation. It is important because the government does not have the right to change our Constitution without the consent of the people. It is important because the people have a solemn obligation to correct the errors of our government.

The flag amendment also is important because it does the same thing that almost all of the amendments to our Constitution do: it grants a right to the people, a right that, in this case, was taken away by the government. The government has laid a minefield around Old Glory. The flag amendment clears that minefield.

I once landed my helicopter ambulance in a minefield. The wounded troops were scattered among the mines. No soldier would move. They would not budge even to bring their own wounded to my aircraft. My two crewmen looked at me, and I said simply, "Go get 'em." And they did. They literally ran into the minefield and began to carry the wounded to our aircraft. In the process they set off a mine that physically blew them into the air and filled our helicopter with holes. But they got up and finished the job. They rescued all the wounded.

That is my message to all who support Old Glory. Go get 'em. Rescue our flag. Know you will be entering a minefield. The media will ridicule you. Politicians will trivialize the issue. Many believe it is hokey. Heads will turn and doors will close. Some will demonize you for trying to protect and keep a Constitution that does not fit their distorted vision. The truth will be lost in the melee, and you will be knocked down again and again, but get up and finish the mission. Rip away the cover of those who hide behind a statute. While you are in that minefield, be comforted by the fact that America is with you. You are fighting for our rights. You are protected by the right of the people to define our Constitution, the right of the people to petition the

government for a “redress of grievances.” We need one vote in the Senate. Go get that vote.

Go get the senators who refuse to let the people decide. If you are a Republican, tell Sens. Mitch McConnell and Robert Bennett you know as well as they that a statute will not work. If they truly want the flag protected, they need to vote for the flag amendment first. A statute requires the amendment in order to withstand Supreme Court scrutiny. First the amendment, then the statute; it is the only way the flag can be protected.

The passage of the flag amendment is part of their party’s platform. If they aspire to lead their party, they should know that leaders need to be team players; they will be asking others to do that. They don’t need to change their mind. They just need to change their vote and let the people decide. They should join their own team and the 50 states that want them to return to the people the right to protect Old Glory. They should heed the words of Thomas Jefferson: “It is my principle that the will of the majority should always prevail,” and, “I readily suppose my opinion wrong, when opposed by the majority.” If their vote kills the flag amendment, it will certainly cripple their leadership.

If you are a Democrat, thank Sens. Harry Reid and Dianne Feinstein for their support. It takes a lot of courage to oppose the majority of their party, Senate Democrats, who oppose the flag amendment by 85 percent. Ask them to lead their party back into the mainstream of America, where some 75 percent support their right to protect the flag. A vote for the flag amendment could start that process.

My crewmen were heroes in that minefield. They rescued many dying soldiers that day. Some senator can be a hero. His or her vote can rescue Old Glory from the tyranny of the courts. One vote can prove that the majority in this country counts when it wears working clothes, not just when it wears black robes. That vote can clear the mines around our flag and begin to clear from the Court’s minefield prayer, the Ten Commandments, the Pledge of Allegiance, marriage, property rights – and blow away the court-built barriers around pornography and obscenity. One vote could be historic. It could begin the restoration of our Constitution to where it was for more than 100 years. 

Patrick H. Brady, a Medal of Honor recipient, is board chairman of the Citizens Flag Alliance.

Free speech or gross misconduct?

Hundreds of flag desecrations have occurred since *Texas v. Johnson* determined that such acts are legal forms of free speech, including:

Glover, Vt., Aug. 5-6, 1989: Vandals turn the Westlook Cemetery into “a bathroom facility,” using American flags as toilet paper. – *The Times Argus*, Barre, Vt.

Bloomington, Ind., June 8, 1995: Twenty flags are stolen from poles and burned at the Valhalla Memory Gardens cemetery.

Appleton, Wis., Sept. 20, 1996: Local youths admit to stealing, burning and defecating on American flags in a series of more than 20 incidents in the Appleton area.

Beverly, N.J., May 17, 1997: Vandals desecrate dozens of American flags at a national cemetery. – *Courier-Post*, Cherry Hill, N.J.

Minersville, Pa., Aug. 7, 1998: A Pottsville, Pa., man and four juveniles are arrested in connection with the burning of about 100 American flags on veterans graves. – *The Harrisburg Patriot*, Harrisburg, Pa.

Springfield, Mo., May 31, 1999: Dorothy Presley discovers the charred remains of an American flag she flew outside her home in honor of three U.S. soldiers held captive in Yugoslavia. – *Springfield News-Leader*, Springfield, Mo.

Washington, D.C., Jan. 20, 2001: Demonstrators at the U.S. Navy Memorial burn American flags they brought with them, and lower those on the memorial’s flagpoles to trample them. – *Washington Post*

Elwood, Ind., Oct. 27, 2002: Air Force veteran Ben Haskett finds his American flag in shreds and is told by police of 11 similar incidents – *Theindychannel.com*

La Habra, Calif., March 8, 2003: Dozens of supporters rally around a sidewalk memorial to victims of the Sept. 11 attacks after antiwar protesters burned U.S. Flags at the memorial. According to police, Jennifer Quintana tells the crowd she burned several flags and put up an antiwar poster. – *Los Angeles Times*

Littleton, N.H., Sept. 9, 2004: Zachary Libby, 21, is arrested for vandalizing an American flag on the Veterans Memorial Bridge. – *Associated Press*

Hurricane, Utah, July 4, 2005: Early on the morning of July 4, someone takes down the American flag posted outside an American Legion post, partially burns it and then hangs it back on the flag pole upside down. – *Spectrum*, St. George, Utah

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Why the U.S. Congress is duty-bound to pass the flag amendment

BY STEPHEN B. PRESSER

Each member of Congress, when he or she begins to serve, takes an oath to support the U.S. Constitution, as required by Article VI of that fundamental document. That oath ought properly to be regarded as an obligation to recapture the Constitution through the passage of constitutional amendments when the U.S. Supreme Court misconstrues it. Constitutional amendments have been rather rare in our history (only 27 so far in a little more than 200 years), but at least three of those have been passed in order to correct Supreme Court decisions regarded as erroneous. The most notorious of those decisions overruled by a constitutional amendment was the *Dred Scott* decision of 1857, which declared that black men and women should not be regarded as citizens of the United States, a decision that had much to do with plunging the nation into Civil War. It was corrected by the 14th Amendment, one of the most important provisions in the entire Constitution. The two other amendments that reversed Supreme Court decisions forbade some lawsuits against state governments (the 11th) and permitted a progressive income tax (the 16th). Depending on one's point of view, just as the 14th Amendment did much to further American popular sovereignty, freedom and equality, so did the others reinforce the basic idea of the Constitution – Lincoln's notion that ours is a government of, by and for the people.

This summer, Congress will have one more opportunity to further popular sovereignty by passing, in both chambers for the first time, the flag amendment. The flag amendment is a simple and elegant addition to the Constitution, providing, in pertinent part, that "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the Flag of the United States." The need for the amendment flows from the Supreme Court's misconstruction of the Constitution in the 1989 case of *Texas v. Johnson*. In that case, overturning more than a century of American tradition, a five-person majority of the Court declared that desecration of the flag – the act of maliciously destroying the flag by such acts as tearing, burning, defecation or urination, in a manner calculated to cause outrage among any person observing the act – is speech protected by the First Amendment.

Until 1989, even the greatest champions of the First Amendment — men such as justices Earl Warren and Hugo Black — understood that desecrating the flag was a noxious act, and not a form of speech. Indeed, in his powerful dissent to *Texas v. Johnson*, then-Chief Justice William Rehnquist observed that flag desecration is more like an "inarticulate grunt" than any form of coherent speech. Some acts – wearing a black armband, for example – may well qualify as protected speech, but other acts, such as threatening the president or scrawling graffiti on federal buildings, might well have some expressive content but would still not be recognized as speech protected by the First Amendment.

Perhaps for some Americans, and, alas, for five members of the Supreme Court, the flag is apparently little more than a piece of colored cloth, and thus for them, malicious harm to the flag is regarded as simply a not-particularly-noteworthy political statement. But since *Texas v. Johnson*, we've learned that is not the view of most of the American people. For most Americans, and particularly for those who have fought our nation's battles or lost loved ones in such a struggle, the flag is a cherished symbol of the self-sacrifice and even the sacred nature of the service many Americans have given their nation. To condone desecration of the flag strikes this majority of Americans as fundamentally wrong. For them, flag desecration is not speech; it is an outrageous, uncivil and odious act that undermines the respect, admiration and gratitude that most Americans believe is due to those who have sacrificed on behalf of the rest of us. For them, to dishonor the flag is nothing less than literally and figuratively tearing at the fabric that holds us together.

It is curious that a majority of the U.S. Supreme Court finds it difficult to understand these truths, which are obvious to most Americans. Subsequent to *Texas v. Johnson*, in 2003's *Virginia v. Black*, the Supreme Court ruled that cross burning, another expressive act, is not necessarily protected speech but rather can be criminally punished when it is intended to intimidate and create fear of physical harm among a group of citizens. Flag desecration, of course, is a similar act of defiance and intimidation, but perhaps the Court, in its marble palace on Capitol Hill – along with many academics in their ivory towers – has lost the sense of the effect of flag desecration on ordinary Americans. Opinion polls do show that up to 80 percent of Americans believe it is appropriate to punish those who desecrate the flag and that a constitutional amendment that accomplishes this is a worthy undertak-

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ing. Indeed, with a unanimity unprecedented in U.S. history, 50 state legislatures have indicated their support for such an amendment.

Given this overwhelming public expression of support for such an amendment, given the inconsistent behavior of the U.S. Supreme Court in this area of constitutional law, and given the importance of the issue to most Americans – particularly the men and women who serve or who have served in our armed forces – it is not difficult to understand that once again the men and women serving in the House of Representatives and the Senate have a duty to preserve and protect the Constitution by passing the flag amendment, sending it on for a speedy ratification by the states. Three quarters of the state legislatures must vote to ratify an amendment, but since all have indicated their support for the measure this should not be a problem.

For Congress to do its duty in passing the flag amendment and overturning the Court's dubious decision in *Texas v. Johnson* would send a powerful message to all Americans:

that just as the first three words of that document suggest, the ultimate authority on the Constitution is "we the people." In our nation, our only sovereign is the sovereign people themselves, and it is their representatives in Congress who have the burden of acting on the people's behalf in matters of Constitution correction.

The objections to such an amendment that have been raised over the years by many senators and some representatives, objections that will be heard again this summer, have never been persuasive but deserve some mention in order to rebut them. Some members of Congress believe the flag ought to be protected, but that a statute could do it and no constitutional amendment is necessary. Unfortunately, this experiment was tried the year after *Texas v. Johnson*, but the Supreme Court simply reiterated that it meant what it said: any statute seeking to prevent flag desecration runs afoul of the First Amendment. Only a constitutional amendment, then, can clarify that flag desecration is not speech but a harmful act.

Some have also argued that if the flag amendment passes it will open the floodgates to constitutional amendments, making it inevitable that our noble and succinct Constitution will be inundated with partisan amendments. This slippery-slope argument is incorrect, however, as the barriers to constitutional amendments remain considerable, and only an overwhelmingly popular amendment

such as this stands a chance of passage. Indeed that is the way it should be.

Others have objected that crafting an appropriate statute to protect the flag will be difficult, and that any measures could be overbroad, perhaps criminalizing the wearing of flag boxer shorts, flag motorcycle jackets or flag bunny slippers. Such an objection is, of course, premature, since no legislation has yet been passed – the flag amendment would permit such legislation but does not require it, and Congress would likely take great care in the drafting of such a measure. Fear of the chilling effect of such a statute seems overblown, however, given that legislation dealing with flag desecration was on the books for more than a century without noticeable effect on citizen action or civil liberty.

A final objection sometimes offered by ostensible friends of the flag is that to pass such an amendment will only invite disaffected souls to engage in more flag desecration, to express their dismay

at the amendment and their contempt for the measure. But by this twisted logic one should

never make any acts criminal lest one encourage their commission. No society can long endure if that is its philosophy of criminal legislation.

The real issue with the flag amendment is what our guiding national philosophy should be: whether there are some things that ought to be sacred and revered, and whether the American people and their representatives have the power and the duty to declare what those things are. The real issue, in other words, is nothing less than popular sovereignty itself.

To some Americans, committed probably in good faith to a society in which the maximization of individual will and expression is the only good, the flag amendment might seem an unwise burden imposed on free expression. To most Americans, however, who understand, as did our framers, that some things are more important and enduring than individual self-actualization, who understand that duty, respect, self-sacrifice and service to the community ought to take precedence, the passage of the 28th Amendment, the flag amendment, will be celebrated as a wise return to our traditions and to the original understanding of the Constitution. ¶

Stephen B. Presser is the Raoul Berger professor of legal history at Northwestern University School of Law, a professor of business law at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, and a constitutional adviser to the Citizens Flag Alliance.



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It's Not Personal, It's Politics

Don't be surprised if your congressman or senator doesn't "get back to you." Even with large staffs, politicians find it difficult to stay in touch with constituents.

BY BEN STEIN

To begin at the beginning, I am a tiny bit annoyed. Years ago, when I spoke at a fund-raiser for a GOP candidate in Orange County, Calif., I sat on the dais next to a lovely – even beautiful – woman named Mary Bono. Ms. Bono is the widow of Sonny Bono of “Sonny and Cher” fame, a former beauty queen and now a representative to the U.S. House of Representatives. She represents some, or all, of eastern Riverside County, a place of many different kinds of people, from Hispanic immigrants to billionaire retirees at lavish country clubs. The retirees make up a very large part of the population, and they are often Republican voters. It is no exaggeration to say they put Ms. Bono in office.

So, now I have moved to the lovely area Ms. Bono represents, to a place called Rancho Mirage, and I hope to soon be a retiree. I wanted to talk to Ms. Bono about issues down here. I called her office repeatedly and always got sent to a machine. Then I went to her Web site, where I sent her two letters. No response at all. When I e-mailed, when I called, I said I was a constituent and a well-known GOP speaker, and I wanted to re-acquaint myself with her.

No response. I just have the vague idea that possibly there are other Americans out there who want to contact their elected representatives and are having a bit of trouble doing just that. And they may be feeling a bit of tension

Ben Stein is an economist, lawyer, writer and actor. He provides commentary for “CBS Sunday Morning” and writes “Everybody’s Business,” a regular column for the *New York Times* Sunday business section. He also writes a column for Yahoo!Finance on money and is a frequent contributor to Fox News. With investment adviser Phil DeMuth, Stein is the author of “Can America Survive?” He was a speechwriter for presidents Nixon and Ford and is active in political commentary.

about it too, and a touch of disappointment. However, even as I write this down, my tension and disappointment are ebbing because I think I know how to solve the problem.

Before I tell you how I am going to solve the problem – and it's not really a very big problem – let me say that this is not a partisan problem, nor is it a problem solely of beautiful women in Congress. It's a problem with representative government. Basically, we have just gotten too big for our senatorial and House of Representative britches, in a word.

When the United States of America was founded, the country had a population of (very roughly) 10 million people. The Constitution called for the House of Representatives to be made up of one representative for every so many people. This latter number was added to as population grew so we would have more representatives but not as many as if we had kept the number of constituents per representative constant as in the Constitution. By 1910, though, the House and Senate decided that the House of Representatives would simply be too unwieldy if it got much bigger, so they capped it at 435 and just allowed the number of citizens per district to grow.

Times Have Changed. Now back to the founding. There were 13 states, soon to be added to by many more, and even the largest of these – either Virginia or New York or Pennsylvania or Massachusetts – would have had barely 1 million people. Not only that, but senators were elected by the state assemblies, so a senator basically only had to know a few dozen men – there were no women in government then – to be elected over and over again.

Plus, Congress only sat for a few months each year, so the rest of the time, the senator or representative was back home practicing law or making friends or running a saloon, getting to know his peeps.

Yes, there were no telephones and no e-mail and no jet planes and only the vaguest hints of railroads. But serving as a representative or senator was a small-time thing. Of course, money helped, as it always does in every situation, for all time, but basically, a representative could take his time and get to know everyone at every general store, every barber shop, every house of ill repute. That was small-town America then. That was small American government then.

Cut to the America of Mary Bono's day. We will very soon have 300 million people. Counting illegal aliens, we certainly have more than that by now. We still have 435 representatives, the amount set in 1910. That means each representative has roughly 690,000 constituents. Plus, women vote. Eighteen-year-olds vote. Men and women of all ethnicities vote. It is simply impossible for a representative, let alone a U.S. senator, to get to know more than a tiny sliver of these people personally. Even with a large staff, even with e-mail and jet planes, it is hard to make anything more than the most glancing contact with constituents in any meaningful way.

Again, imagine that you are a U.S. senator from California with maybe close to 40 million citizens, or of even the least populous state, Wyoming, with only a few hundred thousand. You simply cannot get to know more than a tiny fraction personally. You can be the most outgoing, friendliest human being on the planet and you can be in your car and out at the mall day and night. You still can't do it.

But you want to be elected. You want to be noticed. You want to be important at home in your district or state, and also in the nation's capital. So, what do you do?

It's Just Business. You think to yourself, hey, even though I am the incumbent, there are always fresh faces who have just made a jillion dollars in real-estate development or high tech or working at Goldman Sachs who want my seat in the corridors of power. Yes, again, I am the incumbent, and we incumbents generally win, but there are always wolves nipping at my heels. How do I stay ahead? Is it by sitting at the phone and talking to Ben Stein if he calls? Is it by e-mailing everyone who e-mails me? No, there are too many people e-mailing me and calling me. I would love to have the personal touch, but I can't do it. I need to reach voters the way Procter & Gamble reaches the folks who buy soap: in very large quantities and at the lowest possible cost.

That means television. That means mass mailings. That means radio ads. In other words, that means money. Huge money. Millions of dollars for each election cycle. That means the real job of a member of Congress or a U.S. senator is raising money. Yes, it is important that he attend committee meetings. It is important that he vote on the key votes

and that he show up for openings of bridges and highways. But that's just window dressing. And it's important that the emcee come to the occasional American Legion hall and speak at the Rotary every so often. But, again, this is just window dressing. This is making the voters back home believe you are attending to the people's business (and I am sure that the representatives and senators are doing just that in their minds).

But the No. 1 goal of any elected representative is to be re-elected, and again, beyond anything else, this means raising money. Everything else is like driving in golf. It's for show. Raising the money? It's for dough.

Now, this does not mean that congressmen and senators are anything less than fine people. I have had the pleasure of working for a U.S. senator long, long ago by the name of Joseph Tydings of Maryland. He was a totally great guy. I was an 18-year-old college student home for the summer. I answered his letters, wrote speeches for him, even wrote a speech he gave at the commencement of the University of Maryland when I was myself in college. What was the senator doing? Well, talking to other senators, of course. Occasionally meeting with the top dogs at the White House (amazingly, I cannot now recall whether that was JFK or LBJ, but I think it was JFK). But most of all, he was talking to people who could help him raise money. Union officials. Well-heeled real-estate developers. Successful farmers who wanted tax relief. Anyone who could give money and help Joe Tydings get re-elected. And again, I don't even slightly blame him for it. He was paid pennies for his work as a senator back then in 1963. Maybe he got \$30,000 a year. He served his country with all his heart and soul, and his state, too. But if he wanted to be re-elected, he had to have money.

That's the way it is now, too. A member of Congress or senator gets paid slightly more than \$160,000 a year. This is more than most people earn, but compared with how hard they work, compared with the responsibilities they have, it's peanuts. The men and women of the

U.S. Congress get paid a lot less than beginning investment bankers right out of the top business schools. They get paid about the same as beginning lawyers at major Wall Street firms.

No one seeing how hard they work for so little money can doubt their sincere wish to serve the people.

But how can they serve if they are defeated? How can they sacrifice and act like patriots if they have to go back to being small-town lawyers when someone takes their seat? That means he has to raise money, and that fund-raising is his full-time job.

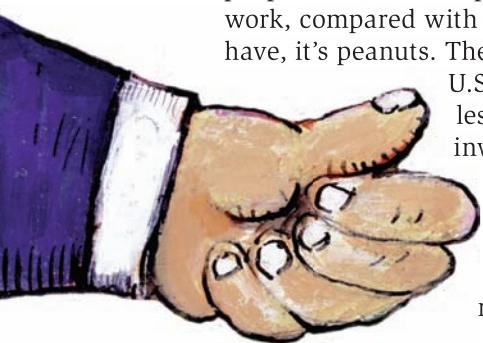
So, if you call your congressman, and he does not return your call, fobs you off onto a machine or to a college intern still hung over from the party at Georgetown the night before, it's nothing personal. As they always say in "The Godfather," "... it's just business."

Of course, there are exceptions. If you are the head of the local Chamber of Commerce, if you are the reverend of a megachurch, if you are head of a large American Legion post, and you want to talk to your congressman, you will be able to. That's because you will be in a position to deliver a chunk of votes in a bloc, the way candidates like them.

So, think of your representative as a businessman. He's selling himself just like a realtor sells a house. And just like that realtor, he wants to sell the house to the highest bidder. He doesn't just want to. He *must* do that or he will disappear into oblivion.

"Money is the mother's milk of politics," goes the old saw, and it's true. I have seen it in my own little life. I have a friend who has run for statewide office in California. I have donated the maximum to him and hosted fund-raisers for him. And it works. When I have a problem with the state bureaucracy, his staff helps out. They return my calls. They treat me right. (By the way, this does not necessarily work at the national level. One of my closest friends raised over \$250,000 for the Bush campaign in 2004 and cannot get anyone at all on the phone. I think for that you have to raise over a million.)

So, why is my tension and disappointment about my representative here in Rancho Mirage gone? Because I am going to give the maximum to her campaign next time out. Because I will attend her fund-raisers. Because I will play the game the way the game is played. I will see things from her angle – that is, through the prism of what works for her. And I believe now you know how the game is played. It's not personal. It's just business. ☺



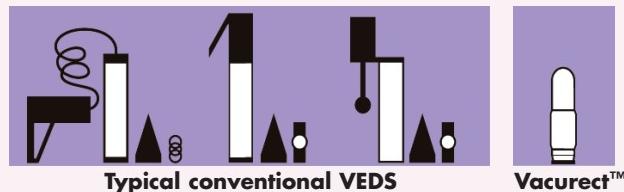
NEW!

Now you too can beat **ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION**

Erectile Dysfunction (ED) effects about 30 million men in the USA. The causes are varied and range from psychological reasons to health conditions. But serious as it is, some men still compound the problem by not taking steps to deal with it. The result – often a complete breakdown in their most intimate relationship.

"My diagnosis of cancer came as a shock to myself and my wife – little did we know that it would also end our intimate experiences... that was until we found the Vacurect™ vacuum therapy system. So simple and easy to use... after several months of use I began to regain my normal function." – Mobile, AL.

Vacurect™ was designed by a 47 year old professional engineer who was experiencing ED himself. With the assistance of urologists and sexologists, he decided to tackle the problems of bulkiness and awkward method of use inherent in traditional Vacuum Erection Device (VED) design. The breakthrough result is an extremely compact and easy to use solution... see for yourself!



"For the last five years, my husband and I had been using an earlier model vacuum system... it was awkward to include in our lovemaking and the rings were uncomfortable for my husband. Now the Vacurect™ has unbelievably enhanced our intimate moments together" – Clifton, N.J.

Additional Advantages

Control: You determine when, how long and how often.

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Proven Performance: Over 96% effective for thousands of satisfied users!

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Live your life fully – bring intimacy back into your life TODAY! Call one of our trained clinical specialists right now to learn more and to request a **FREE Patient Starter Kit** or, if you prefer, complete and send in the coupon below. Be sure to include your telephone number.

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BONRO Medical Inc., PO Box 211610, Martinez, GA. 30917

AL.06.06

[IMMIGRATION]

Border control: the first step to immigration reform

BY THOMAS L. BOCK

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL COMMANDER

A few weeks ago, Congress considered granting amnesty to 12 million illegal immigrants in America. The national debt stood at more than \$8 trillion. The war on terrorism was within a few months of its five-year anniversary. Programs like Social Security and Medicare are faced with grave uncertainties, long-term and short. Education, housing, labor, commerce, agriculture and environmental protection are all pegged for budget cuts. Veterans benefits claims are stacked nearly a million deep, VA construction projects are delayed, and lines are again forming at under-funded VA health-care facilities. In all, 141 federal programs are proposed for reduction or elimination in 2007.

The "guest-worker" program debated in Washington last spring is a quick, costly stab at solving America's illegal-immigration crisis. Recent history shows the quick-fix approach won't work. In fact, it can be expected to quadruple the long-term federal cost of providing services for newly legalized immigrants, along with dependents who will follow them in years to come. Their chances of realizing the American dream will be shot without a robust naturalization process that includes English language skills, allegiance to the laws of our nation, denouncement of our enemies, and an ultimate expectation of U.S. citizenship. Of course, deportation of the millions who have crossed the border illegally – so many of them desperate to work hard to build better lives for their families – is logically, economically and diplomatically unwise and inhumane. It is a complicated problem, one that has ridden along like a stowaway in the cargo hold of our republic since its founding. The ultimate solution may be years away.

In the meantime, there is one critical step America must take, particularly during this time of global war and threatened national security, a time when a nuclear device can be carried in a

backpack. That step is a vastly stronger commitment to border control – on the south, the north, in our ports and everyplace else we have let our perimeters grow porous.

Border security, not amnesty, must be the first step. Without it, we can expect nothing less than a repeat performance of the disastrous Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. The act gave 2.8 million illegal immigrants a free pass. Another 142,000 dependents soon followed. Ten years later, the average immigrant who'd received amnesty was earning \$9,000 a year and had only a seventh-grade education. Meanwhile, the taxpayer cost of medicating, educating, feeding, incarcerating and providing services to that group alone is estimated at \$78 billion, according to the Center for Immigration Studies. Millions more illegal immigrants poured into America following the 1986 amnesty, which failed to make a necessary commitment to border control to go along with the free pass for those already living here.

In recent years, the brutal "coyote" industry of human trafficking has begun to eclipse narcotics smuggling at the border, leading hundreds to their deaths in the deserts or to be stuffed by the dozens into suburban drop houses with no place to go. Nearly 4 million are estimated to have immigrated illegally into the United States since 2000 alone.

If the 1986 model is applied to the current guest-worker proposal, taxpayers can safely calculate \$312 billion to pay for the amnesty over the next 20 years, at which time, without a commitment to border control, another amnesty is certain to be needed. The money will be spent, and the problem will still be with us. That \$312 billion would go a long way toward improving access to VA health care, providing education to low-income children, fortifying the future of Social Security and, lest we forget, toward securing the borders and enforcing immigration laws already on the books.

Since the early 1920s, The American Legion has supported legal immigration, the naturalization



process, the adoption of a shared language, and the lawful route to U.S. citizenship. That support is built on the hope that future generations, regardless of their origins, have the opportunity to live out the American dream. The granting of amnesty eviscerates the process, rejecting laws built on the protection of the American people and of immigrants themselves. The granting of amnesty without an expectation of naturalization and assimilation all but guarantees that newly legalized immigrants and their families will stay stuck at the bottom of the income and education ladder, caught behind a language barrier that is growing ever more impenetrable. Amnesty strips away any incentive for an immigrant to pursue citizenship the legal way, and it does nothing to untangle the red tape that prevents law-abiding immigrants from timely decisions on their visa applications.

The world possesses no nation so welcoming as America. But ours is not a house without rules, nor can it be, certainly not in a time of war. The answer resides somewhere between the deportation of 12 million people and the declaration that everyone in the world, regardless of their place of origin or intent, has a God-given right to live here. The answer has yet to come fully into focus, but we know from 1986 that putting a Band-Aid over a sucking chest wound is not going to heal this condition in the long run.

In his final days, President Theodore Roosevelt grappled with the same problem and wrote: "We should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin. But this is predicated upon the person's becoming in every facet an American, and nothing but an American ... There can be no divided allegiance here."

It is a message our elected leaders would be wise to revisit today.

Immigration proposals before Congress

In early April, immigration reform hit a snag in the Senate. Debate centered on three bills but ultimately fell apart over disagreements between parties. The Senate was expected to take up the issue again following a two-week recess.

More difficult will be reconciling a final Senate bill with H.R. 4437, the House bill passed in December. Introduced by U.S. Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner, H.R. 4437 treats illegals' presence in the country as a felony punishable by a year and a day in jail. Giving even humanitarian aid to illegals would be a crime punishable by up to five years in prison. Civil penalties for employers hiring illegals would climb to as high as \$25,000. Also included is a 700-mile double fence along the U.S.-Mexico border.

S. 2454, the Securing America's Borders Act

Introduced by Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn.

Requires employers to electronically verify worker eligibility, with increased civil penalties of between \$500 and \$20,000 for hiring illegals.

Makes it a misdemeanor crime to be in the United States illegally.

Cancels visas of immigrants who have overstayed their time and requires them to return to their home country.

Increases employment-based visas from 140,000 to 290,000.

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Senate Judiciary Committee Bill

Introduced by Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Arlen Specter, R-Pa.

Allows a three-year guest-worker visa, renewable once if illegals pay a \$1,000 fine and pass a background check. After six years, they must demonstrate English proficiency and pay another \$1,000 fine and back taxes before applying for permanent residency.

Removes criminal penalties for immigrants found to be in the country illegally.

Authorizes a "virtual wall" of unmanned vehicles, cameras and sensors to monitor the border.

Requires acquisition or construction of 20 detention facilities for up to 10,000 apprehended illegals.

S. 2612

Introduced by Sens. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., and Mel Martinez, R-Fla.

Divides illegal immigrants into three groups. Those living in the United States more than five years would earn their way to citizenship by learning English and civics, submitting to a background check and paying a \$2,000 fine. Those living in the United States between two and five years would have to leave the country at least briefly to obtain temporary work visas. Illegals here less than two years would be required to leave.

Sources: AP, Federation for American Immigration Reform

Todd Bigelow/JP

[VERBATIM]

"This is no longer my son."

Aicha El-Wafi, mother of convicted 9/11 co-conspirator and al-Qaeda member Zacarias Moussaoui, after he shouted at his trial, "God curse America! Bless Osama bin Laden!"

"You're on the 105th floor. Wow. Any injuries? Just hold on one second, sir. Hold on ... Don't worry, God is there."

911 operator, answering an emergency call from the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, in a partial recording recently released

"This is certainly more serious than anything President Clinton was accused of doing."

U.S. Sen. Russell Feingold, D-Wis., after introducing a resolution to censure President Bush for his warrantless surveillance program. Democrats blocked a hasty vote on his proposal.

"I wanted to do a tour like I did during the Vietnam War, a tour of the country. But then Cindy Sheehan filled in the gap, and she is better at this than I am. I carry too much baggage."

Jane Fonda, on her decision not to publicly protest the Iraq war

"To those peoples in the huts and villages across the globe struggling to break the bonds of mass misery, we pledge our best efforts to help them help themselves, for whatever period is required – not because the communists may be doing it, not because we seek their votes, but because it is right."

President John F. Kennedy, 1961

"If the copying machines that came along later had been here during the war, I'm not sure the Allies would have won. We'd all have drowned in paper."

Alan Dickey, World War II Pentagon architect

[MILITARY]

The military's long history as a melting pot

A recent study published by the Population Reference Bureau reveals that ethnic diversity has been a hallmark of the U.S. military from the very beginning. Congress authorized the creation of a German battalion in 1776. During the Civil War, 22 percent of the Union Army was foreign-born, including a unit of German riflemen detached to the New York militia and a brigade of Irish immigrants from New York and Massachusetts.

[WASHINGTON CONFERENCE]

Flag, war hot topics in D.C.

Conference produces promises of action.

Legionnaires attending the Washington Conference last spring wanted a Senate vote on the flag-protection amendment, and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist promised one before the July 4 recess – probably during the week of June 26.

With 66 confirmed supporters in the Senate, the amendment has never been closer to passage. Citizens Flag Alliance Chairman Patrick H. Brady, a retired Army major general and a Medal of Honor recipient, said many senators owe their seats to veterans who voted in the last election. "This isn't about flag burning," Brady said. "It's about those that say flag desecration is free speech."

He warned Legionnaires not to be fooled by senators who support flag-protection statutes instead of an amendment: "They know that the court will not uphold these statutes."

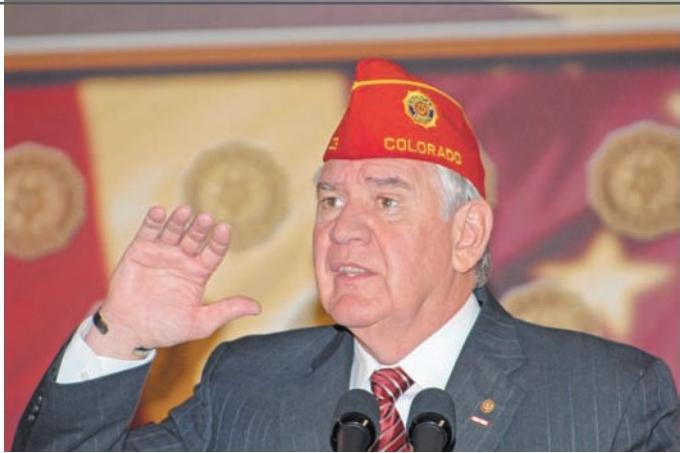
■ Vice President Dick Cheney addressed the rally, updating The American Legion on the administration's strategy for Iraq. "Going forward, as the Iraqi security forces grow in strength and the political process continues to advance, we'll be able to reduce troop levels without losing our capacity to defeat the terrorists," he said.

■ William Haynes, general counsel for DoD, said that even though terrorists do not abide by Geneva Conventions, the United States chooses to treat captured combatants humanely. "We are at war, but we are a country governed by the law."

■ VA funding was also high on the agenda. Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Larry Craig, R-Idaho, mentioned the possibility of VA charging enrollment or user fees, a proposal the Legion opposes.

By 1898, 25 percent of the U.S. Army was born somewhere other than the United States. During World War I, the commander of the 77th Infantry Division claimed that 43 languages and dialects were used in his unit. And during World War II, Washington created an all-Norwegian battalion "for an invasion of German-occupied Norway."

Today, according to Pentagon estimates, almost 31,000 U.S. troops are not yet American citizens.



James V. Carroll

"To continue to provide the best care for veterans, we are going to need to make adjustments, which may include adopting the proposals the VSOs once advocated for – asking those who have upper incomes and no combat injuries to pay more for their care," Craig said.

National Commander Thomas Bock reiterated the Legion's position that Title 38 "clearly defines those veterans who VA will treat at no cost to the veteran. It also identifies those veterans who must make co-payments for third-party reimbursement. Unfortunately, VA is prohibited from collecting third-party reimbursements from Medicare for nonservice-connected medical treatment."

He pointed out that more than half of VA's patient population is Medicare-eligible. "VA loses third-party reimbursements from every Medicare-eligible Priority 7 and 8 veteran it treats. Doesn't it seem smarter to let VA collect from the nation's largest health-care insurer rather than charging each veteran a \$250 enrollment fee and doubling their prescription co-pay? These veterans have been paying the federal government for their Medicare benefits all their working life and continue paying Part A and Part B premiums. They are not asking for free health care. They simply want to spend their health-care dollars in a quality health-care delivery system."

– John Raughter

[BY THE NUMBERS]

The Taliban tally

- 81** Percent of Afghans who think al-Qaeda is a negative influence in the world
- 6** Percent who think al-Qaeda is a positive influence
- 90** Percent who have an unfavorable view of Osama bin Laden, with 75 percent very unfavorable
- 5** Percent who have a favorable view of bin Laden
- 88** Percent who say they have an unfavorable view of the Taliban
- 8** Percent who say they have a favorable view of the Taliban

- 82** Percent who say the U.S. overthrow of the Taliban was good for Afghanistan
- 11** Percent who say it was bad for Afghanistan
- 21** Percent who think Pakistan is seriously trying to stop the Taliban from operating there
- 66** Percent who think the government allows it
- 83** Percent who say Afghanistan is heading in the right direction
- 11** Percent who say it is heading in the wrong direction

Source: Program on International Policy Attitudes

"In this war, we've lost some really good men and women who left our shores to defend liberty and did not live to make the journey home. Others have returned from war with wounds the best medicine cannot heal. As veterans, you've lost friends and comrades in the field of battle, and you understand the sadness that has come to some of our nation's military families. We pray for the families of the fallen, and we honor the memory of all who have given their lives in freedom's cause. And we will honor that memory by defeating the terrorists, and spreading liberty, and laying the foundation of peace for generations to come.

"I appreciate the Legion's support for our troops in the fight. I appreciate the example you have set for those who wear the uniform today.

"Before Veterans Day a few years ago, a group of soldiers serving in Iraq sent a letter to The American Legion Headquarters here in Washington. They wrote, "Veterans of past wars will forever be in our hearts as American heroes. Their sacrifices give us courage, and their devotion reminds us of what we are fighting for." Our men and women on the front lines are taking inspiration from the valor and courage that you've shown on the field of battle. When they face dark moments in the thick of the fight, they remember that you faced enemies as brutal and determined as those who threaten America today, and they remember how you prevailed. And now they're picking up your mantle and carrying on your fight. And like our veterans, they're bringing security to our citizens, and freedom to the world.

"Thank you for your idealism. I thank you for your dedication to God and country. May God bless our veterans. May God bless our troops in uniform. And may God continue to bless our country."

President George W. Bush, speaking to Legionnaires and American Legion Auxiliary members in Washington in February

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James V. Carroll

[LEGION RACING]

Freedom Car gains ground at Nashville Superspeedway

The American Legion 76 Freedom Car missed a starting position in the ARCA PGF Lester 150 at Nashville Superspeedway on Easter weekend by a mere 0.585 seconds. That blink of an eye was the difference between 32nd and 45th in a 41-car field. It's the difference between \$60,000 to prepare for a race or \$100,000.

Despite the setback, Team Johnson Motorsports owner Jack Johnson is optimistic the Freedom Car team is on the right track.

"During the two-hour practice session, we steadily increased lap speeds," Johnson said. "And our qualifying speed was more than three-tenths of a second faster than our fastest practice lap. We learn something every lap we are on the track."

Qualifying for an ARCA, Busch Series or Nextel Cup race is a

simple matter of speed, Johnson says. Attaining the needed elapsed time is not so simple. But above all else, it takes cash to consistently field a competitive race program.

"Money does not guarantee a win, or even a starting position on race day," says Jerick Johnson, driver of the 76 Freedom Car. "However, it can level the playing field and gives a driver a realistic shot to race and maybe even win."

Funding permitting, Johnson said he hopes to qualify the Legion 76 Freedom Car for the June 24 Busch Series AT&T 250 at the Milwaukee Mile.

The Legion Racing program depends on grassroots support by The American Legion family, with the sale of Freedom Car merchandise the main source of revenue. The national organization provides no direct monetary support.

Support the Legion Racing program

Purchase Legion Racing Merchandise or Legion Gourmet Coffee.

(888) 453-4466
www.emblem.legion.org

Purchase Post Packs at wholesale (12 shirts, 12 caps and 12 lapel pins) to sell or to raffle.

(704) 658-9988

Become a "Star" Sponsor, with your name, post and business listed on the traveling show car trailer.

(704) 877-0151

Join your Department Booster Club.

Become an associate sponsor or post honorary associate sponsor.

(704) 458-0110

[SCHOLARSHIP]

A successful 2005 fund-raising effort between The American Legion and Lincoln Mercury has led the auto manufacturer to continue the offer for Legion family members in 2006.

Mercury offered Legionnaires, along with Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion members \$400 discounts on any new Mercury or Lincoln, in addition to any current public offers, in 2005. Each purchase additionally generated a \$100 donation to the American Legacy Scholarship Fund, which provides education dollars to the children of U.S. servicemembers killed in active duty on or since Sept. 11, 2001. Purchases resulted in \$118,000 for the fund. Learn more about this important program online. www.mercuryvehicles.com/legion



James V. Carroll

Pharmacists now armed with a powerful new weapon that delivers real joint comfort

Luck of the draw gives readers 7 days to be the first to get the new pills

Scientists and doctors have developed an amazing new oral tablet called Trigosamine. It's so impressive that one key ingredient has the ability to retain fluid up to 1000 times its own weight, with the potential to increase lubrication for the joints allowing them to move with ease.

"Using Trigosamine is like taking a can of oil and applying it directly to your joints" said Dr. Joseph Dietz, Chief of Health Sciences.²

And thanks to the luck of the draw, readers of this publication will be among the first to get it. That's because this area has already been assigned a toll free Regional Health Hotline, but the catch is the hotline is set to close in just 7 days.

"We recommend that readers call now to get their share first," said Matthew J. Woods, Director of The Regional Health Hotline.

"Right now we're shipping out everything we have on a first come first served basis. We may not be able to meet everyone's demands as word continues to spread across the country," he said.

Trigosamine contains one of the most promising joint nutrients known to man. Researchers refer to it as HA13.

This important nutrient is a building block of naturally occurring joint oil which is medically known as synovial fluid. This fluid reduces friction in the joints allowing for effortless motion.¹ It not only lubricates the joints but it also acts as a comfortable shock absorber.

"As the body ages the production of synovial fluid declines which forces the joints to grind together resulting in nagging discomfort," Dr. Dietz said.

"HA13 has been shown to be absorbed into the body and made available to the joints. That means it has the potential to replenish the ultra slippery synovial fluid which allows joints to slide freely and smoothly,"¹ said Dr. Dietz.

Now for the first time ever the Trigosamine brand combines HA13 with the essential blend of Glucosamine and Chondroitin.

It has been clinically shown that this essential blend of glucosamine and chondroitin helps to build healthy cartilage in the joints and allows for increased flexibility and range of motion. This impressive combination works to alleviate uncomfortable joint dysfunction which results in amazing comfort.¹

A clinical study conducted by the United States government found that glucosamine and chondroitin, similar

to those present in Trigosamine, had a remarkable 79.2% effective rate for those with moderate to severe joint discomfort.

It was also announced at The American College of Rheumatology² meeting that the combination of glucosamine and chondroitin showed promise among persons with moderate to severe discomfort.

"The clinical trials have been consistent. The essential blend like the one present in new Trigosamine has been proven safe and is extremely effective," Dr. Dietz said.¹

One of the reasons Trigosamine is receiving so much attention is because it is derived from natural sources. The ingredients are combined to make a revolutionary new formulation that is taken orally just once a day without a prescription.

The tough part now is how to get it. "Everybody wants it," Woods said.

"The first drugstores to get this new formula couldn't keep it on the shelves."

That makes the next 7 days so critical for all of the readers. Those who get through to the Regional Health Hotline before the deadline will get Trigosamine sent directly to their homes.

Otherwise, those who miss the deadline and everybody else living in other parts of the country will be hard pressed to get it.

So, even with the clock ticking readers still have the advantage of being among the first to get their hands on this new medical breakthrough. ■

Here's how to get it

The national distribution of new Trigosamine is being conducted under the strict control of a 7 day deadline. Until all pharmacies are fully stocked, readers are authorized to have it sent directly to their homes by calling The Regional Health Hotline now.

PHONE LINES OPEN:
at 9:00 am today

PHONE LINES CLOSE:
in just 7 days

REGIONAL HEALTH HOTLINE:
1-800-782-8750

APPROVAL CODE FOR THIS AREA:
TG373

IMPORTANT: If you miss the 7 day deadline you will be turned away. Otherwise, you need to wait for a future public announcement giving your local area approval to call.



■ HEALTHY JOINTS: Diagnostic x-rays reveal human joints that have the proper amounts of synovial fluid to lubricate the joints and act as a comfortable shock absorber. The plentiful fluid allows for comfortable and effortless motion.

HOW Trigosamine WORKS

Trigosamine is a once daily oral tablet with a mechanism of action with three powerful joint nutrients put into place to provide comfort.

1. Hyaluronate-HA13™:

This remarkable compound is present in the body's synovial fluid which acts as a shock absorber and makes the joints extremely slippery allowing them to slide smoothly over one another.¹

2. Glucosamine Hydrochloride-GH15::

This clinically proven compound helps build and maintain cartilage to reduce joint dysfunction.¹



3. Chondroitin Sulfate-CS12::

Clinically proven compound helps improve flexibility and promotes increased range of motion.¹

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Full circle

Big Band music lives on through scholarships.

The names Glenn Miller and Ray Eberle are synonymous with the Big Band Era. Glenn Miller's Orchestra was probably the best known Big Band in the world, and his ballad singer, Ray Eberle, was one of the most influential pioneers of Big Band singers. He was also my father. Their music not only lifted the spirits of Depression-weary Americans, it boosted the morale and hopes of troops during World War II.

The names of these famous musicians of a bygone era once again echo the halls of today's high schools and colleges, connecting two distant generations.

In the mid-1970s, the Miller family formed the Glenn Miller Birthplace Society to celebrate Miller's life and work in his hometown of Clarinda, Iowa. The society's board of directors unanimously decided that Miller's historic contributions and unique vision would live on in music scholarships. The scholarship program gained traction in 1980 when Bob Hope sent a \$100 contribution, which aided in organizing what is now known as the Glenn Miller Scholarship Foundation.

Thirty years later, thousands of Miller fans from all over the world flock to the Glenn Miller Festival in Clarinda. There, six scholarships are awarded: three each for the instrumental and vocal categories. The funds may be used for any education-related expense without regard to any other award.

Clarinda's business community, along with society's supporters worldwide, established a permanent instrumental scholarship. Later, memorials to Ralph Brewster of the famed Miller group "The Modernaires" and Clarinda businessman Jack Pullen were added. Beginning this year, a vocal scholarship has been added to honor the memory of Ray Eberle.

In the spring, final selections were made from hundreds of applicants attending the festival. But what draws dozens of talented 18-year-olds from around the country to a small town in Iowa? In a word: integrity. They are studying music and know well these historic figures of the past. The names Glenn Miller, Ray Eberle and Ralph Brewster imbue vision, history, hope and encouragement. These are names they trust, representing the swing music their grandparents danced to and that they continue to keep alive for future generations.

I will be in Clarinda this month to represent my father. I look forward to shaking the hand of the first recipient of the Ray Eberle Vocal Scholarship and looking into his or her smiling eyes the way my father looked into mine. This year's festival truly will be a place where the past meets the future.

— Jan Eberle



Ray Eberle, right, performs with Glenn Miller during the Big Band Era.

Pioneer in PTSD diagnosis passes away

Psychiatrist Leonard Neff, who played a key role in improving diagnosis and treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder, died March 26 at 80.

A college student drafted into the Army during World War II, Neff served in the Pacific but did not see combat. Decades later, he was working as a psychiatrist at what is now the VA psychiatric hospital in West Los Angeles when he persuaded a 22-year-old Vietnam War veteran to surrender after the man appeared in combat gear and took three people hostage.

Neff participated in a study of the disorder called "shell shock." His work gave health officials a better understanding of how traumatic experiences can surface much later in life.

In 1976, Neff and others made a presentation on the disorder at a psychiatric association convention, and he was instrumental in seeing that PTSD became an actual diagnosis in 1980.

Of the 2.5 million men and women who served in Vietnam, 54,972 received compensation for psychiatric disorders, according to a 1974 report. Neff challenged the view that most Vietnam veterans were to blame for their own problems.

After leaving his job at VA, Neff entered into private practice. He also served as an adjunct professor at the UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute.

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How to Heal Diabetes

Here's important news for anyone with diabetes. A remarkable book is now available that reveals medically tested principles that can help normalize blood sugar naturally ...and greatly improve the complications associated with diabetes. People report better vision, more energy, faster healing, regained feeling in their feet, as well as a reduction of various risk factors associated with other diseases.

It's called "Healing Diabetes" and it was researched, developed and written by a leading nutrition researcher. It shows you exactly how nature can activate your body's built-in healers once you start eating the right combination of foods. It can work for both Type I and Type II diabetes and people report it has helped reduce their insulin resistance. It can give diabetics control of their lives and a feeling of satisfaction that comes from having normal blood sugar profiles.

The results speak for themselves. "Healing Diabetes" is based on the latest scientific research. It tells you which delicious foods to eat and which

to avoid. It also warns you of the potential danger of certain so-called "diabetes" diets. This program is outstanding and can be a tremendous help to diabetics. "Healing Diabetes" is based on documented scientific principles that can help:

- Eliminate ketones and give you more abundant energy
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- Improve your balance
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- Reverse neuropathy and resultant heel ulcers

Improvement may be seen in other areas as well, such as lower blood pressure, lower cholesterol and reduced triglyceride levels. There may also be a reduction of other risk factors associated with: heart attacks, stroke, retinopathy, kidney damage.

What's more, it may help improve short term memory and make you feel

more alert and no longer chronically tired. Improvements of double vision or diplopia may also be experienced.

If you or someone you know have diabetes, this could be the most important book you'll ever read. As part of a special introductory offer, right now you can order a special press run of "Healing Diabetes" for only \$12.95 plus \$2.00 shipping. It comes with a 90 day money back guarantee. If you are not 100% satisfied, simply return it for a full refund...no questions asked.

Order an extra copy for family or friend and SAVE. You can order 2 for only \$20 total.

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Simply PRINT your name and address and the words "Healing Diabetes" on a piece of paper and mail it along with a check or money order to: Diabetes Information Center, Dept. HD230, P.O. Box 8347, Canton, OH 44711. VISA or MasterCard send card number and expiration date. Act now. Orders are fulfilled on a first come, first served basis.

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Oh, my aching joints

New challenges, new hope in treating arthritis.

BY DR. JOEL KUPERSMITH

In the late 1990s, when Vioxx and similar drugs were introduced, newspaper headlines heralded a new era in pain relief: "Stomach problems minimized with new potent painkillers," one paper proclaimed. "Newest drugs relieve pain with less risk," another reported.

Several clinical trials since have shown that these drugs – known as COX-2 inhibitors – may increase the risk of heart attack and stroke more than was previously thought. As a result, Vioxx and a similar drug, Bextra, were pulled from the market. A third, Celebrex, is considered somewhat safer and is still available and prescribed widely – although the Food and Drug Administration now requires a strong "black box" warning on its label.

COX-2 inhibitors belong to a wider class of drugs called non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, or NSAIDs. Over-the-counter and prescription NSAIDS – including aspirin, ibuprofen and others – play a major role in arthritis treatment, despite concerns over possible long-term side effects.

Walking, swimming or yoga also can help reduce joint pain and stiffness, strengthen muscles around the joints, and build flexibility and endurance. Developing a personalized exercise program in consultation with a doctor, physical therapist or exercise specialist can be an important first step in managing arthritis.

Besides NSAIDs, two classes of drugs worth noting are the biologic response modifiers and disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drugs. Both these categories of drugs help stop the progression of rheumatoid arthritis, but they have drawbacks,



such as high cost or potentially serious side effects. Scientists are working on versions that are safer and less costly.

One medical treatment already in use is "visco-supplementation," in which doctors inject a liquid compound into the joint to lubricate it.

Two supplements used widely to treat arthritis pain – glucosamine and chondroitin – were recently put to the test in a clinical trial involving VA researchers. The study included nearly 1,600 patients with osteoarthritis of the knee and found that the supplements were no better than placebo for most patients. However, the treatment did help a subgroup of patients with more severe pain.

Joel Kupersmith, M.D., is chief research and development officer for the Veterans Health Administration.

This article is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their physicians when they have health problems.

[VA]

Commander: CARES announcement premature

VA Secretary James Nicholson told the *Federal Times* on April 17 that he is nearly ready to reveal his decision on VA's massive Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services program, or CARES.

"Everything went into limbo for half a year and now suddenly the secretary says he is prepared to make a unilateral decision that affects the lives of millions," National Commander Thomas L. Bock said upon hearing the news. "Instead, he needs to resume talks and make a decision based on a VA demand picture that has changed greatly in the past two years."

From Florida to Washington and from Maine to California, at least 18 VA facilities were up for closure, reduction or, in some cases, expansion. CARES also called for building more than 150 clinics across the nation, and medical centers in Las Vegas, Denver and Orlando, Fla., but funding for construction has lagged.

Evans decides not to seek another term

U.S. Rep. Lane Evans, D-Ill., an ardent supporter of veterans as ranking member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, announced in April that he will not run for another term. Evans has been suffering from the effects of Parkinson's disease since diagnosed in 1998.

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Wisconsin paper wins Fourth Estate Award

The *Post-Crescent* of Appleton, Wis., is The American Legion's Fourth Estate Award winner for its landmark series on the condition of Wisconsin's war memorials.

One of the major criteria in selecting the winner of The American Legion's Fourth Estate Award is the demonstrated impact of the reporting.

Bureau chief Ben Jones' series, "Have We Forgotten? Wisconsin's War Memorials," is a moving and informative look at Wisconsin war memorials and the poor upkeep they have received over the years.

Jones revisited the purpose of establishing war memorials and the legacy of reverence they have in their communities. Working with *Post-Crescent* enterprise editor Jaime Mara, Jones examined more than 100 Wisconsin war memorials and found about one-third to be in need of repair.

He compiled an online database of Wisconsin war memorials and vividly described their conditions. Many have fallen victim to the ravages of time, weather and neglect.

Details triggered a community movement across the state to restore the memorials. In Appleton, city council

Legion
56
6/2006

In 1934, American Legion Post 38 donated to the city of Appleton, Wis., a metal statue of a World War I soldier in battle gear as a tribute to the 85 Outagamie County men killed in action during the Great War. Weathering has split the infantryman's legs, causing damage that runs into thousands of dollars to repair.

Together, Post 38 and the *Post-Crescent* campaigned to raise money to save the Doughboy statue. By last November, community members chipped in a total of \$21,500 to cover the costs. Officials expect to unveil the repaired memorial this Veterans Day.

members voted 16-0 to award a contract to restore the city's deteriorating "Spirit of the American Doughboy" bronze sculpture.

"Our American servicemen and women served our country bravely, and some paid the ultimate sacrifice," Jones said. "These war memorials were erected to honor their sacrifices for all time, and these monuments should be afforded the same dignity shown to our brave soldiers. That is why we did this story."

Among previous winners of the award are WFOR-TV in Miami, United Press International, *The Dayton Daily News*, Dateline NBC, *Fortune* magazine, ABC News and the *Detroit News*.

"This year's entries were extremely competitive and represented the tremendous efforts of the fourth estate in a wide range of journalistic investigations," said Robert Morrill, chairman of The American Legion's Public Relations Commission.

The American Legion will present Jones with the award on Aug. 30 at the 88th National Convention in Salt Lake City.



Mike De Sisti/Post-Crescent

Excerpted from "Vandals, Weather, Indifference Leave Sites in Disrepair," May 29, 2005

Of the memorials *The Post-Crescent* visited, 10 apparently had been visited by vandals first.

Last month, at Pardeeville's war monument, vandals splattered a granite space under the words "Honor to whom honor is due" with packets of pudding and Jell-O.

Earlier, a flag had been stolen from the monument, and its granite is chipped from someone who apparently threw rocks.

The damage dismayed local veterans, not so much because it took nine years and \$70,000 to build the four-ton memorial. It was another kind of cost.

Eighty names are etched under the words "Civil War." Under a World War I heading are eight more names, 14 for World War II and three each for Korea and Vietnam.

Ray Bankers, 79, a World War II naval veteran, once knew men listed on the monument, which was dedicated four years ago Monday. "These were the ones that gave their lives," he said.

In Little Chute, names were scrawled into the paint of a World War II German Howitzer cannon. In Beloit, someone broke the binoculars and boot off a statue of a sailor. In Milwaukee, two bronze eagles were stolen from a statue honoring a Civil War-era surgeon general.

To Bankers, who served in a war that took the lives of more than 8,000 Wisconsinites, the damage is senseless. Today's generation, he said, doesn't understand what his sacrificed.

"They have no idea."

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I'm writing to thank you for the wonderful effect your product, MAXODERM Connection has had on my marriage.

My husband and I have 2 children and life is hectic to say the least. Although I love my husband very much, our feelings toward each other have gone from passionate to "compassionate". Intimacy is certainly not a term we're very familiar with these days. We both seem to be so run down at the end of the day, that neither of us have the urge to "get started". I was even concerned that one of us or both for that matter were beginning to suffer from a more physical problem with sexual intimacy.

I decided to take the matter into my own hands and do some research. I found that minor issues with sexual intimacy, such as a lack of desire and arousal, can be easily helped by introducing new and safe methods of stimulation to the relationship. When I found your MAXODERM Connection on the web, I knew that I found an answer. Your site explained how your TOPICAL formula goes to work instantly upon application to drastically increase stimulation and sensation. Although, I was not sure what my husband would think, I decided to give it a try.

WOW! The results were simply amazing! First, since it's applied topically so there's no waiting for something to happen. With MAXODERM Connection, you feel it working instantly - unlike swallowing a pill! I've read that as little as 5% of the pill's ingredients actually make it into your system and often take at least 3 – 4 weeks to work. And because MAXODERM Connection is an herbal formula, you don't need a prescription! With MAXODERM Connection, we were actually able to enjoy the application process and we literally felt like newlyweds again. Not only was the effects exhilarating for me, but my husband felt "more virile" than he'd felt in years. I've also had some of my friends try it with their husbands – they can't thank me enough.

You hear so much these days about herbal pills that claim to do this and claim to do that. We didn't want to just take a pill. We wanted something that was not only going to enhance our arousal and desire, but also bring something fun to the bedroom. We found it with your product and now we're not going to lose it again. I have to say I've never felt so SEXUALLY HEALTHY in my life!

Thank you for making a product that's had such an impact on the BOTH of us.

Alison

Alison M.
Dallas, TX

P.S., Let your readers know - I'm pretty sure they can still get a **FREE MONTH SUPPLY** of MAXODERM Connection with their order by calling **1-800-214-8817** or by visiting their website at www.maxodermct.com Oh, and even better, their product is backed by a 120 Day Full Money Back Guarantee.

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“Not only was the effect exhilarating for me, but my husband felt ‘more virile’ than he’d felt in years.”



Legion officials oppose civil trials for enemy combatants

American Legion officials are concerned about a case before the U.S. Supreme Court that could defy historical precedent and grant enemy combatants access to U.S. courts during a time of war.

"That the Supreme Court today is even considering granting enemy combatants access to our criminal-justice system is ludicrous," National Commander Thomas L. Bock recently wrote in an op-ed appearing on the Web site www.military.com. "It is an insult to every American who has donned a military uniform."

The case, *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld*, was filed by Salim Ahmed Hamdan, an alleged bodyguard and driver for Osama bin Laden. The Yemeni citizen was captured fighting in Afghanistan and is detained at Guantanamo Bay.

Bock has been a tireless supporter of the prison facility at Guantanamo, and he led a delegation of Legionnaires to visit Camp Delta earlier this year. "Simply put, enemy combatants do not have U.S. constitutional rights. If they did, can you imagine the repercussions?" Bock said in his article. "Every American soldier would need a lawyer next to him on the battlefield. Marines could be sued for 'pain

and suffering' inflicted on the enemy. Special Forces would have to read captured enemies their Miranda rights. War as we know it would resemble a 'Law & Order' episode."

American Legion National Security Commission Chairman Clarence Hill, who also visited Guantanamo, agreed. "Those captured on the battlefield belong on a battlefield, not in a court room."

Hill pointed out that the status of enemy combatants is reviewed. "They have their tribunals and their administrative reviews – two separate hearings. Officials at Guantanamo are bending over backward to make sure they get their days in court and that the

hearings are impartial."

Paul Morin, leading candidate for American Legion national commander, added that the treatment of detainees at Guantanamo is better than what is provided at most state prisons. "What I saw down in Guantanamo was outstanding medical care, better than what is provided to many of our U.S. veterans," he said. "The food was great. I wish the people living in the United States could eat as well."

– John Raughter



National Commander Thomas L. Bock, center, leading candidate Paul Morin, left, and National Security Commission Chairman Clarence Hill sample detainee food at Guantanamo.

[LEGIONNAIRES IN ACTION]

Legion Riders welcome home veterans

More than 50 motorcyclists from Mulvane, Kan., American Legion Riders Post 136 surprised Senior Airman Anthony Crone at his home last November. An information manager with 22nd Services Squadron at McDonnell Air Force Base, Crone had just returned from a four-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, and the Riders had a special message for him.

"They thanked me for what we did over there and what we do every day," said Crone, describing the dozens of Riders who showed up to applaud him for his military service.

Crone became the star of an impromptu Legion Riders' "Welcome Home" photo session, in which Riders presented him with an American Legion flag signed by members of the group.



"Initially, I was shocked and confused," Crone said. "I was probably a little defensive, too. It's not everyday that 50 motorcycles stop outside your door!"

Still, Crone was pleased the Riders paid him a visit. "It makes you proud to serve when you can come home to this kind of support," he said.

MORE LEGION RIDER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ONLINE

www.legion.org – Click on "American Legion Riders"

Kansas American Legion Riders: www.geocities.com/kansasriders1

[ACTIVE DUTY]

Marines add Special Ops force

For the first time in its storied history, the U.S. Marine Corps is training and deploying its own Special Operations force. The Marines' Special Operations Command (MARSOC) opened for business at Camp Lejeune, N.C., in late February. Gen. Dennis Hejlik serves as MARSOC's first commander.

Once fully operational, MARSOC will comprise 2,600 Special Ops Marines. Some will specialize in training foreign troops; others will be paired with Marine Expeditionary Units at sea. Still others will stand at the ready at bases on either coast – North

Carolina's Camp Lejeune and California's Camp Pendleton. According to *National Defense*, the two battalions will draw heavily from the USMC's "Force Recon" units.

To prevent any stratification within the Corps, MARSOC Marines will be rotated back into regular Marine units after just three to five years in Special Ops. When asked by *Proceedings* about the name of his new cadre of Marines, Hejlik's response said it all: "Marines."

The Pentagon's Special Operations Command has been around for 20 years, with the Marines noticeably absent until the move. Most observers say the Marines were pushed into creating a Special Ops component by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld – and by the unmistakable reality that the war on terror is a Special Ops war.

[ACTIVE DUTY]

Female colonel makes history

In January, Col. Adele E. Hodges became the first female colonel to command Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.



Her previous duty station was in Stavanger, Norway, working at the Norwegian Joint National Headquarters installations. In 1991, she deployed with the Second Marine Division to Operation Desert Storm.

"My only aspiration when I first joined the Corps was to be the best Marine I could be for four years," Hodges said. "The thought of commanding Camp Lejeune ... was something I thought could never happen to me."

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[EXCERPT]

How the privileged see the military

From "AWOL: The Unexcused Absence Of America's Upper Classes From Military Service – And How It Hurts Our Country" (HarperCollins, May 2006), by Kathryn Roth Douquet and Frank Schaeffer. Roth-Douquet served in President Clinton's White House and Department of Defense. Her husband is a career military officer who has served twice in Iraq. Frank Schaeffer is the father of a former Marine and the author of four books about the military, including his new novel "Baby Jack."

Some people consider their reaction against military service to be a political statement or a statement about policy choices, not about comfort or safety. However, military service is not a referendum on political activity. "Should the country engage in this war?" is politics. "Shall I serve my country because it asks for its members to serve?" is patriotism.

No country can have a military unless people who serve do so for the sake of the country, rather than measuring each action taken by the government to see if they can approve of it or if it seems true "to me." "Do I agree with the national strategy?" or "Am I getting enough out of this?" are not the sort of questions that allow a military to be an arm of national action.

These questions do not lend themselves to the continuity of democracy in any sphere. After all, we do not only pay taxes for programs we approve of, or stop paying taxes when the "other candidate" wins the election. We do not stop obeying the rule of law because there are laws passed by Congress or rulings by the Supreme Court we may disagree with.

The illogic of tying military service to individual political tastes (or likes and dislikes) breaks down when you consider the sweep of world events. If military service is political, what happens when we change presidents? Does one set of soldiers quit and another set take over? The legitimacy of the military does not rest on whether America is led by a "deserving" commander in chief. And our country cannot make foreign policy only by soliciting politically likeminded volunteers: "Who wants to do peacekeeping in Africa? Who's up for hunting Islamist terrorists cave by cave in the Middle East? Anyone want security and stabilization in East Asia? Anyone want to rescue hurricane victims in New Orleans?"

The people who are most critical of our military on moral grounds could perhaps best effect change by calling on the children of the self-proclaimed "enlightened" to serve, rather than fighting to keep them out. For instance, one who is convinced that prisoner abuse is "systemic" in the military should seek to bring well-educated young people with a

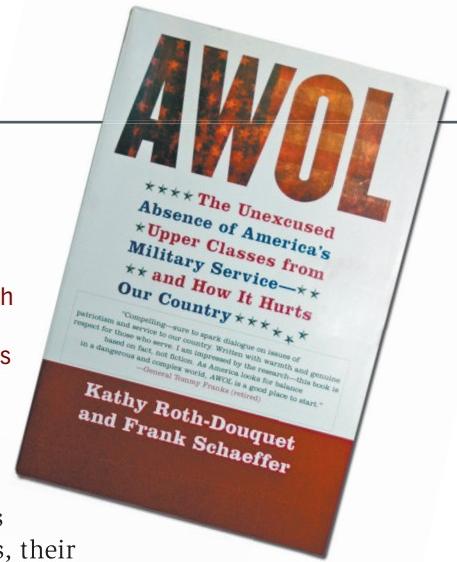
keen sense of individual rights to volunteer in droves to be prison guards, their officers and the JAG attorneys who prosecute wrongdoers. One would think the ACLU would be doing everything it could to get military recruiters into places like Harvard Law School. And those who charge that the military has too many evangelicals should consider that perhaps it is because evangelicals promote the idea of military service where others do not.

The more critical someone is of the military or our actions using our military, the more they are bound – if they want to be taken seriously – to encourage broader military participation. It is, after all, our military, not someone else's. And for those who wave the flag and support the troops but also consider their own family exempt from service because of the wealth of "better options" available to them – we suggest they take the magnetic yellow ribbon off their SUV and rethink their position.

Today, the number of congressmen and congresswomen who are also veterans is about only one-third the figure it was a generation ago, in 1969, and the percentage is falling fast. Only slightly more than 1 percent of members of Congress have a child serving.

This is not a Democrat-Republican issue. It is a class issue – small-town, religious and middle-class Democrats are more likely to have someone in the military in their extended social group than wealthy Republicans living in big cities.

Why don't the elites serve? Most probably they never even consider it. If asked, some in the opinion-making classes might come up with a political reason. However, before Clinton or Bush were elected, before 9/11 and before the war in Afghanistan, the second Iraq war and the war on terror, and before gays in the military became an issue in reaction to the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, the elites weren't volunteering, let alone encouraging their children to serve. The "reasons" may change, but one thing remains constant: the expectation that military service is for the "other" and never for the most privileged.



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Such access is particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy for employment purposes. Other individuals needing documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded online. Because requesters must supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new Web-based application is designed to provide better service by eliminating mailroom processing time.

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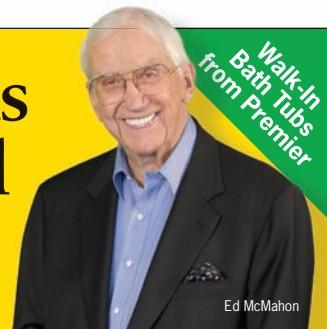
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The American Legion Magazine publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Reunions, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail reunions@legion.org.

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are published free of charge.

Due to the large number of reunions, The American Legion Magazine will publish a group's listing only once a year. Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

Other Notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim. Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name,

telephone number and e-mail address. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail reunions@legion.org.

The magazine will not publish the names of individuals, only the name of the unit from which you seek people. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life memberships by their posts. This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership. Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**.

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**. Include the listing's CID number in your response.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

AIR FORCE/ARMY AIR FORCES

4th Ftr Interceptor Wing Assn (Korea), San Antonio, 10/4-7, John Drucker, (732) 933-1030; **6th Bomb Wing (1940-1966),** Roswell, NM, 9/22-23, Bobby Pike, (479) 7191, bbpk@aol.com; **8th Photo Recon 35th Ftr Grp (Johnson AFB, 1946-1949),** North Platte, NE, 9/28-9/30, Ray Ness, (308) 284-4235; **9th AF Assn**, Dayton, OH, 8/23-26, David J. Miller, (520) 322-6226, admin@b-26mhs.org; **10th Sec Police Assn**, Branson, MO, 8/25-27, Wayne Guidry, (985) 727-3587, guidry_w@bellsouth.net; **11th Air Refueling Sqdn Alumni Assn**, Abilene, TX, 9/21-24, Hollis C. Anglin, (302) 454-1560, hcanglin@earthlink.net; **21st/6461st TCS "Kyushu Gypsies" (Korea),** San Antonio, 10/18-22, Dana Mansur, (908) 782-1657, kgypsy@patmedia.net; **43rd Bomb Grp (H), 63rd, 64th, 65th & 403rd Sqdns**, Branson, MO, 8/23-28, Victoria Anderson, (800) 877-8687

47th Bomb Grp (L) (North Africa, Italy & Southern France, WWII), Washington, 8/25-28, T. Ykema, (480) 831-1354, tykema@cox.net; **48th FS, FIS & FTS**, Dayton, OH, 9/20-24, Joe Onesty, (562) 431-2901, jonesty2@adelphia.net; **56th Amph Tank & Tractor Bn (1949-1955)**, Garrettsville, OH, Blaine Chalker, (440) 548-5647; **61st Ftr Sqdn (Newfoundland, 1950s)**, Branson, MO, Charles Christianson, (763) 295-2861, cncask4it@tds.net; **75th Air Depot Wing (Korea, Japan & Europe, 1950-1955)**, Springfield, IL, 9/7-10, Walter A. Walko, (719) 488-1106, wawaw2@juno.com; **79th Ftr Bomb Sqdn (Woodbridge, England, 1952-1955)**, Columbia, SC, 9/21-24, Ray C. Gautreaux, (225) 357-8198, rayg173@etigers.net; **87th Airdrome Sqdn, 7th & 20th AAF (Kwajalein & Guam)**, San Antonio, 10/14-16, Ray Rogers, (419) 734-4702, raydor@nwonline.net

99th Bomb Grp, Las Vegas, 9/24-28, Henry Fouts, (702) 320-9784, hfsouts@cox.net; **191st Cbt Support Sqdn/RMS "Six Pack Gang,"** Dayton, OH, 9/17-20, Don Hengesh, (231) 439-0987, dohengesh@aol.com; **315th Bomb Wing Airmen**, Guam, 9/13-19, Bev Green, (217) 893-3197; **315th Bomb Wing Assn (VH)**, Tucson, AZ, 11/1-5, Bev Green, (217) 893-3197; **320th Bomb Grp (B-26) 12th AF (WWII)**, Nashville, TN, 9/1-3, Alex Brast, (941) 639-8616, adbrast@earthlink.net; **376th Bomb Grp (H) (North Africa & Italy, 1942-1945)**, Wichita, KS, 9/5-10, Charles Andrews, (920) 921-0696, candrews@mailwpcc.com; **390th Bomb Grp (H) 8th AF (Stn 153, Framlingham, England, WWII)**, Louisville, KY, 9/26-30, Ken

Rowland, (509) 467-2565, rkenrow@msn.com; **435th Aerial Port Sqdn**, Branson, MO, 11/9-12, Fred Norton, (618) 355-0632, derfnorton@aol.com; **463rd Airlifters Assn**, Branson, MO, 8/17-20, Gerald Haines, (937) 325-9306, gerald.haines@sbcglobal.net; **483rd Bomb Grp (H)**, Arlington, VA, 9/3-10, George Stovall, (541) 758-0009, gstovall@peak.org; **491st Bomb Grp**, Denver, 10/11-15, Chris Dracopoulos, (781) 324-1100, chrisdracopoulos@aol.com; **504th Bomb Grp 313th Wing**, St. Louis, 9/13-17, Tom Schoolcraft, (830) 303-5732, pecdancers@aol.com; **533rd FA BN, 18th Arty (Darmstadt, Germany, 1956-1959)**, Frankenmuth, MI, 9/5-8, Carroll Dewees, (337) 474-8054, fdeweess@prodigy.net; **600th & 601st Photo Flts (SE Asia, Vietnam)**, San Antonio, 9/27-30, Ron Marshall, (505) 254-7984, rtronmarshall@aol.com

610th, 618th & 850th AC&W Sqdn, 527th AC&W Grp, 43rd Air Div (Itazuke, Japan), Pigeon Forge, TN, 9/25-28, John Rosso, (661) 832-6036, jjross@atg1.com; **1094th Spec Reporting Sqdn**, San Antonio, 11/6-8, Calvin H. Adkins, (979) 828-5868, metal13@txcyber.com; **7232nd Munitions Maint Grp Det 1000 (Volkel, Netherlands)**, Little Rock, AR, 9/7-9, John Humm, (505) 437-3897, det10bobjoyce37@comcast.net; **B-26 "Martin Marauders" (WWII)**, Dayton, OH, 8/23-26, David J. Miller, (520) 322-6226, admin@b-26mhs.org; **B-57 Bummers Assn**, Detroit, 9/28-10/1, J. M. DeCillo, getdanet1@yahoo.com

Det 0900 (Lahr, Germany), Las Vegas, 10/16-19, Joe Kerr, (813) 996-5633, bojo-care@earthlink.net; **Johnson AB (Japan)**, Branson, MO, 10/5-8, Keith Swinehart, (303) 814-0800, hmet@comcast.net; **McCook Army Air Field (WWII)**, McCook, NE, 9/22-24, Dale Cotton, (308) 345-6097; **Pilot Class 56-V**, Eureka Springs, AR, 10/13-15, George Partridge, (334) 365-8368, gpartridge56v@knology.net

Sampson AFB Vets Fellowship (NY), Dover, DE, 9/25-29, Walt Steesy, (607) 532-4204, samafbv@aol.com; **Shepherds Grove, England (1950s)**, Savannah, GA, 9/19-21, William Miller, (740) 886-6393, wmiller35@hotmail.com; **Westover AFB Spec Projects Production Facility, 8th Recon Tech Sqdn, 749th Support Grp & 497th Recon Tech Grp**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 10/23-27, Lee Colville, (860) 354-3841, lmcolvile@msn.com; **Women in the AF (WAF) Assn**, Branson, MO, 10/11-16, Jacque Walker, (704) 487-8121

ARMY

1st Ord MM Co (All Eras), Warner Robbins, GA, 10/12-14, Bobby Lam, (912) 836-5313; **3rd Armd Div**, Nashville, TN, 7/19-22, Daniel O'Leary, (732) 816-6149, olearydan531@aol.com; **3rd BN 71st Air Def Arty**, Branson, MO, 10/21-24, Howard Webb, (749) 648-2959, laipywebb@cox.net; **3rd Sqn 17th Air Cav Rgt**, St. Louis, 9/1-4, Nathan Holley, (256) 547-0984, nholley317@aol.com; **6th BN 27th Arty (Vietnam)**, Las Vegas, 9/13-14, Arvin Battersby, (309) 594-2482, batts1@earthlink.net; **6th Inf Div (All Units)**, St. Louis, 9/20-24, Russ McLogan, (517) 437-2768, terrusspress@dmci.net; **28th Div 112th Inf Rgt Assn**, Indianapolis, 9/7-9, Frank Small, (765) 436-2417, fnyvis@frontiernet.net; **32nd Inf Rgt**, Nashville, TN, 10/4-8, Robert Brewer, (352) 666-4420; **40th Inf Div 160th Rgt A Co (Japan & Korea, 1950-1954)**, Branson, MO, 9/18-20, Roger Lueckenhoff, (573) 364-4145, lueck@fidnet.com; **44th Inf Div (IL Nat'l Guard, 1946-1954)**, Peoria, IL, 10/13-15, Howard Ferrill, (817) 579-1608, hmf12@juno.com

54th Eng Co (Aug 1967-Mar 1972), Beckley, WV, 9/14-17, Forney Shewsbury, (304) 664-9207, shrewsbury4@msn.com; **77th Armor "Steel Tigers" (All Eras)**, El Paso, TX, 10/11-15, Tom Miller, (703) 476-1798, hg66tom@schach.org; **115th Med Bn 40th Inf Div**, San Antonio, 11/5-10, Frank Targac, (361) 594-3864, mtargac@msn.com; **188th Para/Glider Inf Rgt, 11th Abn Div**, Fort Bragg, NC, 9/7-9, Spencer Gay, (910) 488-0084, Bert Kurland, (252) 728-6482; **259th FA Bn**, Cleveland, OH, 9/7-9, Earle E. Schwark, (440) 884-4323; **276th Cbt Eng**, Muskogee, OK, 9/28-29, Lee Sharp, (918) 854-3082; **280th Eng Cbt Bn, St. Louis**, 9/14-17, Marlin Kreighbaum, (309) 692-9410, mkreigh235@aol.com; **281st Avn Co (Vietnam, 1965-1970)**, St. Louis, 8/2-6, Jack Mayhew, (410) 451-4087, intruder06@comcast.net

300th Armd FA Bn (Korea), Cheyenne, WY, 9/7-10, Bill Day, (307) 856-6546, wday@wyoming.com; **313th Inf Rgt 79th Div (WWII)**, Baltimore, 9/13-17, Bob Watrol, (419) 666-9041, blmw7@aol.com; **321st Sig Bn Corps**, Cedar Rapids, IA, 9/27-30, Kenneth D. Rosenbalm, (319) 454-6407; **326th ASA (Korea & Japan, 1952-1956)**, Pigeon Forge, TN, 9/17-20, Clyde B. Webb, (423) 745-0013, clydejo@tds.net; **369th Eng Amph Support Rgt (All Cos, 1950-1953)**, Port Angeles, WA, 9/22-24, John Singhose, (360) 457-5944; **407th Cbt Eng Bn**, Cedar Rapids, IA, 9/22-24, Ed Van Dee, (319) 377-8781, cat0746@mchsi.com; **428th MP Escort Guard**

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Co, Atlanta, 9/29-30, J.W. Burson, (770) 786-2219, jwandruthburs@aol.com; **435th AA 473rd Inf Rgt Assn – 434th AA, 435th AA, 532nd AA, 900th AA & 473rd Inf Rgt (WWII)**, Albuquerque, NM, 9/1-4, LeRoy D. Good, (765) 659-1256; **515th Trans Co (Vietnam, 1967-1968)**, Broken Arrow, OK, 10/6-8, Don Baccus, (918) 451-6356; **550th AAA (WWII)**, Westfield, NY, 9/8-9, Vince Calarco, (716) 326-2320; **594th Eng Boat & Shore Rgt**, Louisville, KY, 9/21-24, Douglas Russell, (978) 582-9968, ams-doug@yahoo.com; **602nd Eng Cbt Bn**, Octonto, WI, 8/5, Darwin Ferris, (920) 834-5066, debbyk@bayland.net; **605th Tank Dest Bn**, Findlay, OH, 9/2-4, Lawrence N. Montgomery, (269) 685-8729; **630th (LE) Eng**, Branson, MO, 9/21-24, Cecil Brown, (731) 415-6460, brownlinda13@aol.com; **698th AA Bn (All Btrys)**, Nashville, TN, 10/12-15, Kenneth Elkins, (251) 633-7616; **709th MP Bn**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 11/3-5, Curt Cree, (715) 458-4571, 709thmp@hotmail.com; **757th Bn (All Cos)**, Salt Lake City, 7/26-30, Fredolin J. Rotter, (573) 883-3604; **836th Eng Avn Bn**, Grand Rapids, MI, 9/15-17, Al Sickrey, (616) 538-1545

999th AFA Bn "Never Die" (1950-1955), Romulus, MI, 9/15-16, Bernie Jones, (734) 654-6915; **B Co 503rd MP Bn (1943-1945)**, Mystic, CT, 9/17-20, Peter P. Joseph, (207) 872-2225; **George Co 200th Rgt 8th Inf Div**, Naperville, IL, 9/21-24, James Maloney, (815) 725-1973, jimma3165@yahoo.com; **C Co 1/35th Armor 4th Armd Div (Erlangen, Germany, 1960-1964)**, Gary White, (406) 388-6705, giw62@bresnan.net; **Sec Agency 114th Sig Serv Co 331st Comm Recon Co**, Baltimore, 10/6-8, Len Bittner, (724) 778-9873, libttnr@joinmail.com; **Sig Serv & ASA (Okinawa Personnel, 1945-1970)**, Harrisburg, PA, 9/28-10/1, Paul Watson, (978) 465-7473, w562236@aol.com

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MARINES

2/3 Vietnam Vets Assn, Jackson Hole, WY, 8/23-27, Alan Walker, (309) 654-9994, alanwalker777@aol.com; **2nd Airmobile, 17th AAA Bn (1942-1945)**, Tulsa, OK, 10/12-15, Don Sharp, (918) 437-5346, dvsharp_sifi@hotmail.com; **5th, 11th & 14th Def Bns**, Florence, KY, 9/28-30, Jimmie J. Remley, (540) 380-3193, jimbetrem2@adelphia.net; **America CVA 66 Mar Det**, Gaithersburg, MD, 8/11-13, Leslie Holzmann, (908) 231-0321, yoboz.jr@att.net; **Cbt Heli Assn**, Fort Worth, TX, 8/10-13, Robert R. Shantry, (781) 337-3239; **Force Log Cmd, Force Log Support Grp Alpha/Bravo (All Sub Units)**, Philadelphia, 8/3-6,

Bruce Baker, (609) 693-3165, flsg_phila06@comcast.net; **Golf Co 2/7th Mar (Vietnam)**, St. Louis, 8-3-6, Travis Skaggs, (775) 887-5652, tskaggs6@yahoo.com; **Missouri (All Years)**, Norfolk, VA, 10/9-13, Ralph Carrop, (757) 460-0858, cargypsy@verizon.net; **Old Antarctic Explorers Assn (OAEA)**, Warwick, RI, 8/17-19, Marty Diller, (207) 729-0197, mgdiller@blazenetme.net; **Panama Mar**, Branson, MO, 10/3-5, Chuck Milligan, (704) 847-9314, fireriter@aol.com; **VMD-154 Photo Sqdn (WWII)**, Austin, TX, 10/5-8, Raymond Whitehead, (760) 729-4514

NAVY

57th Seabees (WWII), Greenville, SC, 10/25-27, Robert Martin, (970) 356-1054, hicountryinsuran@qwest.net; **107th Seabees**, Fredericksburg, TX, 9/14-17, Frank Kullmann, (201) 825-9465; **ACORN-52**, Grand Rapids, MI, 10/9-13, Ralph Snyder, (217) 698-9122; **AE Sailors Assn - Akutan AE 13, Arctic AOE 8, Butte AE 27, Camden AOE 2, Chara AE 31, Detroit AOE 4, Diamondhead AE 19, Firedrake AE 14, Flint AE 32, Great Sitkin AE 17, Haeakala AE 25, Kilauea AE 26, Kitmai AE 16, Lassen AE 3, Mauna Kea AE 22, Mauna Loa AE 8, Mazama AE 9, Mount Baker AE 4/34, Mount Hood, AE 11/29, Mount Kiska AE 35, Nitro AE 2/23, Paricutin AE 18, Pyro AE 1/24, Rainier AE5/AOE 7, Sacramento AOE 1, Sangay AE 10, Santa Barbara AE 28, Seattle AO3 3, Shasta AE 6/33, Supply AOE 6, Suribachi AE 21, Vesuvius AE 15, Virgo AE 30, Wrangell AE 12**, San Diego, 10/4-8, Jerry King, (626) 339-9793, dd694@adelphia.net

Alchiba AKA 6/23, Dayton, OH, 9/10-13, Bob Litten, (828) 524-8053; **Almaack AK 27/AKA 10**, Atlanta, 9/8-12, William F. Heyn, (201) 342-7614, rjh5f2w@verizon.net; **Badoeng Strait CVE 116 Assn**, Las Vegas, 9/24-27, Henry Trotter, (210) 658-3447, hctrotter@yahoo.com; **Bainbridge DD 246**, Charleston, SC, 9/17-20, Carole Aldridge, (813) 671-3094, ngtingale@netzero.com; **Balch DD 363**, Branson, MO, 10/1-7, John W. Louden, (402) 496-5316, jklouden@hotmail.com; **Bannock ATF 81**, Wheeling, WV, 10/5-7, Joe Gompers, (304) 242-5694, pgomp@aol.com; **Beale DD/DDE 471**, Newport News, VA, 8/4-6, Roger D. Gillingham, (800) 793-7612, soinbook@dmrhc.net; **Bellatrix AKA 3**, Odessa, TX, 10/4-8, Neel Wright, (432) 366-3806, hazel-wright@sbcglobal.net

Belleau Wood CVL 24, St. Louis, 9/21-25, Dick Fread, (727) 848-5409; **Benner DD/DDR 807**, Las Vegas, 9/20-24, Ray Boone, (623) 388-2255, bknshank@juno.com; **Burleson APA 67**, Branson, MO, 9/27-29, John R. Grzywa, (630) 584-6726; **Bradley DE/FF 1041**, Charleston, SC, 11/9-12, Bruce Gottsch, (845) 634-3993, bgotttsch@optonline.net; **Cabot CVL 28**, Niagara Falls, NY, 9/20-24, Ronald Davis, (860) 536-1835, cvl28@hotmail.com; **Caron DD 970**, Norfolk, VA, 7/20-23, Donald Pennington, (217) 463-1337, cubsnut_1@yahoo.com; **Charles J. Badger DD 657**, Buffalo, NY, 9/13-15, Don Guilfoil, (631) 269-9001, dg776369; **Chase DE 158/APD 54**, Salem, NH, 9/25-28, Henry Sanders, (603) 893-0451; **Chilton APA 38**, Atlantic City, NJ, 10/22-25, William Shields, (215) 330-1802, jdubois42@msn.com

Clarence K. Bronson DD 668, Branson, MO, 10/2-5, Ken Sullivan, (941) 795-3813; **Cleveland LPD 7**, Reno, NV, 9/28-10/1, Lee Hursey, (316) 942-9305, boatswain5@msn.com; **Columbus Vets Assn**, Washington, 9/27-30, Allen R. Hope, (260) 486-2221, hope4391@comcast.net; **Collingsworth APA 146 (WWII)**, St. Louis, 10/3-8, Mark

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(France, Mar 1945). Edward J. Ryan seeks witnesses to verify injury sustained when fellow soldier fell on his knee. CID 1486

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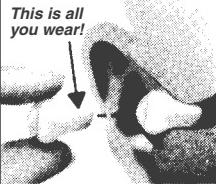
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parting shots

A spouse is someone who'll stand by you through all the trouble you wouldn't have had if you'd stayed single.

TWO BANK ROBBERS tied and gagged a cashier after learning the combination to the safe, then herded the other employees into a separate room under guard.

After the men rifled through the safe and were about to leave, the cashier made desperate pleading noises. Curious to hear what he was trying to say, one of the burglars loosened the gag.

"Please," the cashier whispered, "take the books, too. I'm \$7,500 short."

ST. PETER is very busy in heaven, so he leaves a sign by the pearly gates: "For service, ring bell." He's barely gone when the bell rings. He rushes back to the gates, but no one's there.

St. Peter goes back to work, but the bell rings again. He rushes back to the gates, and again no one's there. Growing annoyed, he returns to work.

Ding! The bell rings a third time. St. Peter goes back to the gates, but still no one's there. "OK, that's it," he mutters. "What's going on?" He hides a short distance away, and a moment later, a little old man walks up and rings the bell.

St. Peter jumps out and yells, "Are you the guy who keeps ringing the bell?"

"Yes," the old man says.

"Well, why?"

"They keep resuscitating me."



"You think you can find a potion to put her to sleep for another hundred years?"



"As executor, I've been asked to read this last will and testament to all members of the immediate family."



"I'm preparing my resignation letter."

A HUSBAND AND WIFE were involved in a petty argument, both unwilling to admit they might be in error.

"I'll admit I'm wrong," the wife told her husband, "if you'll admit I'm right." He agreed and, like a gentleman, insisted she go first.

"I'm wrong," she said.

Without pausing, he responded, "You're right!"

THE POLICE OFFICER got out of his car as the young man, stopped for speeding, rolled down his window.

"I've been waiting for you all day," the officer said, pulling out his notepad.

"Well, I got here as fast as I could," the young man replied.

When the officer finally stopped laughing, he sent the driver on his way without a ticket.



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